OMENS OF HISTORY AND OF TO-DAY

By RUDOLPH DE ZAPP.

People of to-day believe as much in omens and superstitions as they ever did, and the very presence in this city of a large number of professional fortune tellers, who do a thriving busisess not only from the lower and so-called ignorant classes, but who are patronized by society people, the cultured, and wealthy classes, is ample proof for my contention.

It must be admitted that omens and superstitions have had so much to do in giving color to history and in molding and manifesting the conduct and character of nations not less than individuals, that the subject is more than merely curious.

Following are a few of what may be called the social and personal superstitions—the fancies and usages of the credulous, simple, and strange warnings of approaching fate by omens or dreams that, come they from what source they may, form part of the romance of history and of life, and with regard to which not all can be so skeptical as perhaps they ought or would desire:

POETRY OF OMENS. Omens constitute the poetry of history. They cause the series of events which they are supposed to declare to flow into epical unity, and the political catastrophe seems to be produced, not by prudence or by folly, but by the superintending destiny The numerous tokens of the death of Henry IV are finely tragical. Mary of Medicis, in her dream, saw the brilliant gems of her crown change into pearls, the symbol of tears and mourning. An owl hooted until sunrise at the window of the chamber to which the King and Queen retired at St. Denis on the night preceding her coronation. During the ceremony it was observed with dread that the dark portals leading to the royal sepulcher beneath the choir were gaping and expanded. The flame of the consecrated taper held by the Queen was suddenly extinguished, and twice her crown nearly fell to the ground The prognostications of the misfortunes of the Stuarts have equally a character of solemn grandeur, and we are reminded of the portents of Rome when we read how the sudden tempest rent the royal standard on the Tower of London. Charles I, yielding to his destiny, was obstinate in the signs of evil death. He refused to be clad in the garments of Edward the Confessor, in which all his predecessors had been arrayed, and he would be attired in white velvet. Strangely did the Earl of Pembroke attempt to dissuade him, for the prophecy of the misfortune of the White King had long been current, but his entreaties were in vain, and Charles was crowned invested with the raiment which indicated his misfortunes.

THE SHAKING ASPEN. The aspen is popularly said to have been the tree from which the Cross was made upon which Our Saviour was crucified; and thenceforth its boughs have been filled with horror and trembles ceaselessly. Unfortunately for the probability of this story, the shivering of the aspen in the breeze may be traced to other than a supernatural cause. The construction of its foliage is particularly adapted for motion; a broad leaf is placed upon a long footstalk, so flexible as scarcely to be able to support the leaf in an upright posture; the upper part of this stalk, on which the play or action seems mainly to depend, is contrary to the nature of footstalks in general, being perfectly flattened, and as an eminent botanist has acutely observed, is placed at a right angle with the leaf, being thus particularly fitted to receive the impulse to every wind that blows. The stalk is furnished with three strong nerves, placed parallel and acting in unison with each other; but toward the base, the stalk becomes round, and then the nerves assume a triangular form, and constitute three distinct supports and counteractions to each other's motions.

THIRTEEN TO DINNER. There is a prejudice existing generally on the pretended danger of being the thirteenth at table. If the probability be required, that out of thirteen persons, of different ages, one of them, at least, shall die within a year, it will be found that the chances are about one to one that one death, at least, will occur. This calculation by a means of a false interpretation has given rise to the prejudices, no less ridiculous, that the danger will be avoided by inviting a greater number of guests, which can only have the effect of augmenting the probability of the event so much apprehended.

LOOKING BACK. The superstition of the ill-luck of looking back, or returning, is nearly as old as the world itself, having, doubtless, originated in Lot's wife "having looked back from behind him" when he was led, with his family and cattle, by an angel outside the doomed City of the Plain. "Whether walking or riding, the wife was behind her husband, according to a usage still prevalent in the east, where no woman goes before or beside her husband." Oriental Illustrations says: It is considered exceedingly unfortunate in Hindustan for men or women to look back when they leave their house. Accordingly, if a man goes out and leaves something behind him which his wife knows he will want, she does not call him to turn or look back, but takes or sends it after him, and if some great emergency obliges him to look back he will not then proceed on the business he was about to transact. A similar feeling is entertained in some parts of England, though not carried so far into operation.

UNLUCKY FRIDAY. Friday has from time immemorial been superstitiously considered an unlucky day, because, probably, of the crucifixion of our Saviour on Friday, a day of fear and trembling, of darkness, and earthquake; and the fast ordained by the church contributed to perpetuate these mournful associations. The belief in the unluckiness of Friday especially has a strong hold upon sailors, although the most glorious voyage ever made, that of Columbus to America, began on a Friday.

The Romans had their lucky and unlucky days, and on the latter would not undertake any business for fear it should have a bad conclusion; they considered them as unhappy and of ill-omen. The French have also an unlucky or unfortunate day, and this is Friday. On this day they will not undertake any business of importance, for fear of its turning out badly, or a long journey, lest it abound with distressing accidents. A marriage is seldom contracted on this day, lest it should prove unhappy. Leigh Hunt tells us that "Lord Byron believed in the ill-luck of Friday, and was seriously disconcerted if anything was to be done on that frightful day in the week." Napoleon the First was always careful not to undertake anything of importance on Friday, he also believing in the ill-luck of Friday.

HOUSE CRICKETS. It is singular that the house cricket should by some weak persons be considered an unlucky, and by others a lucky, inmate of a dwelling. Those who hold the latter opinion consider its destruction the means of bringing misfortunes on their habitation.

OMENS OF OUR OWN TIME. When George III was crowned a large emerald fell from his crown. America was lost in his reign. When Charles X was crowned at Rheims, he accidentally dropped his hat, the Duc d'Orleans (Louis Philippe) picked it up and presented it to him. On the Saturday preceding the promulgation of the celebrated ordinances by Charles X's ministers, the white flag which floated on the column in the Place Vendome, and which was always hoisted when the royal family was in Paris, was observed to be torn in three places. The tricolor waved in its stead the following week. On the morning of the rejection by the House of Lords of the first reform bill, "the dawn" was indeed overcast with storm. At the period of Napoleon's dissolution, on the 4th of the month in which he expired, the island of St. Helena was swept by a tremendous storm, which tore up almost all the trees about Longwood by the roots. The 5th was another day of tempest, and at about 6 in the evening Napoleon pronounced "tete d'armee," and expired.

PICTURE OMENS. Archbishop Laud, not long before the disastrous circumstances happened which hastened his tragical end, on entering his study one day found his picture at full length on the floor, the string which held it fastened to the wall having snapped. The sight of this struck the prelate with such an aweing sense of the probability of his fate that from that moment he never enjoyed a moment's peace. It, moreover, brought back to his mind a disaster that had occurred to one of his boats on the very day of his translation to the see of Canterbury, which sank with his coaches and horses into the Thames.

The Duke of Buckingham was struck by an occurrence of a similar kind; he found his picture in the council chamber fallen out of its frame. This accident, in that age of omens, was looked upon with a considerable degree of awe.

SAILORS WHISTLING. Some of our sailors have a strange opinion of the devil's power and agency in stirring up winds, and this is the reason that they so seldom whistle on shipboard, esteeming that to be a mockery, and consequently an enraging of the devil—unless, indeed, in a cabin, when whistling is an invocation. Zoroaster himself imagined there was an evil spirit that could excite violent storms of wind.

LUCK OF BIRTHDAYS. The fortunes of children are believed by many fond parents to be much regulated by the day of the week on which they were born. Here is a rhyming adage on the subject:

"Monday's child is fair in face,
Tuesday's child is full of grace,
Wednesday's child is full of woe,
Thursday's child has far to go,
Friday's child is loving and giving,
Saturday's child works hard for its living,
And a child that's born on a Christmas day
Is fair and wise, good and gay."

OVERTURNING THE SALT. The popular superstition of this accident being unlucky is said to have originated in the celebrated picture of the Last Supper, by Leonardo da Vinci, in which Judas Iscariot is represented as overturning the salt.

UNLUCKY STUMBLING. When Mungo Park took leave of Sir Walter Scott prior to his second and fatal expedition to Africa, his horse stumbled on crossing a ditch which separated the moor from the road. "I am afraid," said Scott, "this is a bad omen." Park answered, smiling, "Omens follow them who look to them," and striking spur into his horse, galloped off. Scott never saw him again.

LUCK OF HORSESHOES. Butler, in Hudibras, says of his conjurer that he could

"Chase evil spirits away by dint
Of sickle, horseshoe, hollow flint."

Aubrey tells us, in his Miscellanies, that "it is a thing very common to nail horseshoes on the thresholds of doors, which is to hinder the power of witches that enter the house. Most houses of the West End of London have the horseshoe on the threshold. It should be a horseshoe that one finds." He adds: "Under the porch of Stanfield Church, in Suffolk, I saw a tile with a horseshoe upon it, placed there for this purpose, though one would imagine that holy water alone would have been sufficient. I am told there are many other similar instances."

In Gay's fable of "The Old Woman and Her Cats," the supposed witch complains—

"Straw laid across my path retard,
The horseshoe's nail'd, each threshold's guard."

It was lucky to find old iron, but more especially a horseshoe. This notion is still current in our time, as well as the nailing of the shoes beneath the sill and over the door; and probably many readers of country training have counted themselves lucky, when children, in finding a horseshoe. Nelson, who was of a superstitious turn, believed in the luck of a horseshoe, and one was nailed to the mast of the "Victory." The inventor of the "fever powder," "Lucky Dr. James," used to attribute his prosperity to his good fortune in finding a horseshoe; hence his sobriquet.

LOVE CHARMS. Theoritus and Virgil both introduce women into their pastorals, using charms and incantations to recover the affections of their sweethearts. Shakespeare represents Othello as accused of winning Desdemona "by conjuration and mighty magic."

"Thou hast practiced on her with foul charms;
Abus'd her delicate youth with drugs or minerals
That waken motion.
She is abus'd, stolen from me, and corrupted
By spells and medicines bought of mountebanks."

In Gay's "Shepherd's Week," these are represented as country practices:

Strait to the 'pothecary's shop I went,
And in love powder all my money spent,
Behap what will, next Sunday, after prayers,
When to the ale house Lubberkin repairs,
These golden flies into his mug I'll throw,
And soon the swain with fervent love shall glow.

In Ferrand's "Love and Melancholy" it is said: "We have sometimes among our silly wenches, some that, out of a foolish curiosity they have, must needs be putting in practice some of those feats that they have received by tradition from their mother, perhaps, or nurse, and so, not thinking forsooth to doe any harme, as they hope to paganize it to their own damnation. For it is most certain that botanomancy, which is done by the noise or crackling that kneeholme, box, or bay leaves make when they are crushed betwixt one's hands, or cast into the fire, was of old in use among the pagans, who were wont to bruise poppy flowers betwixt their hands, by this meanes thinking to know their loves; and for this cause we should call this hearb tel-love." Speaking of the ancient love-charms, characters, amulets, charters, or such like peripapses, Dr. Ferrand says, they are "such as no Christian physician ought to use; notwithstanding that the common people do to this day too superstitiously believe, and put in practice, many of these pagan devices.'

The following is found in Herrick's Hesperides:

A CHARM OR AN ALLAY FOR LOVE.
If so be a toad be laid
In a sheepskin newly flay'd,
And that ty'd to a man, 'twill sever
Him and his affections ever.

SUPERSITIONS RESPECTING GEMS. The Arabs, in general, still believe in the foolish old superstitions respecting their gems and precious stones, and are more apt to wonder at their miraculous virtues than to turn them to account in the way of commerce.

THE ROSE AT MIDSUMMER. The gathering of a rose on Midsummer Eve was once superstitiously associated with the choice of a husband or wife. The custom is stated to be a relic of Druidical times, and is thus mentioned in the Connoisseur. "Our maid Betty tells me that if I go backward, without speaking a word, into the garden, upon Midsummer Eve, and gather a rose, and keep it in a clean sheet of paper, without looking at it till Christmas day, it will be as fresh as in June; and if I then stick it in my bosom, he that is to be my husband will come and take it out." There is also another condition related—that the rose is to be gathered and sealed up while the clock is striking twelve at midday.

THE BLESSING OF THE CORNFIELDS. In Longfellow's Hiawatha, an ancient and pleasant superstitious custom among the Indian tribes is made the subject of one of the divisions of the poem.

Once, when all the maize was planted,
Hiawatha, wise and thoughtful,
Spake and said to Minnehaha,
To his wife, the Laughing Water:
"You should bless to-night the cornfields,
Draw a magic circle round them,
To protect them from destruction,
Blast of mildew, blight of insect,
Wagemin, the thief of cornfields;
Paimosaid, who steals the maize ear!,
In the night, when all is silence,
When the spirit of sleep, Nepahmin,
Shuts the doors of all the wigwams,
So that not an ear can hear you,
So that not an eye can see you,
Rise up from your bed in silence,
Lay aside your garments wholly,
Walk around the fields you planted,
Round the borders of the cornfields,
Covered by your tresses only,
Robed with darkness as a garment.
Thus the fields shall be more fruitful,
And the passing of your footsteps
Draw a magic circle round them."

Schoolcraft, in his Oneota, thus refers to this superstition: "A singular proof of the belief, in both sexes, of the mysterious influence of the steps of a woman on the vegetable and insect creation, is found in an ancient custom which was related to me respecting corn-planting. It was the practice of the hunter's wife, when the field of corn had been planted, to choose the first dark or overclouded evening to perform a secret circuit, sans habillement, round the field. For this purpose she slipped out of the lodge in the evening, unobserved, to some obscure nook where she completely disrobed. Then, taking her matchecota, or principal garment, in one hand, she dragged it round the field. This was thought to ensure a prolific crop, and to prevent the assaults of insects and worms upon the grain. It was supposed they could not creep over the charmed line."

LATEST FASHIONS.

2911. 3129

FOR THE LITTLE TOTS.

Paris Patterns Nos. 2911, 3129

All seams allowed.

Navy blue serge has been used for the development of this practical little suit (2911), which may be made up to advantage in any of the season's materials. The fullness of the front and back of the blouse is distributed in a double box-plait, the closing being hidden under the plait at the front. The lower edge is gathered in by an elastic, run through the hem-casing. The full sleeves are plaited and stitched to cuff depth at the wrist, or, if preferred, these may be gathered into narrow wristbands of the material. The regulation knickerbockers are gathered into the knees by elastic, run through the hem-casing. The pattern is in 5 sizes—5 to 13 years. For a boy of 9 years, the suit requires 4¼ yards of material 27 inches wide, 3½ yards 36 inches wide, or 2⅞ yards 42 inches wide.

Little girls, all the way from 6 to 14 years, look trim and jaunty in kilted frocks in jersey effect made of serge, ladies' cloth, cashmere, mohair, chambray, linen duck or any of the washable materials. The dress illustrated (3129) closes at the left side of the front, and the back is seamless. It is here made of green linen and trimmed with Scotch fancy banding. The pattern is in 5 sizes, 6 to 14 years. For a girl of 10 years, the dress requires 4⅞ yards of material 24 inches wide, 4⅜ yards 27 inches wide, 3⅝ yards 36 inches wide, or 2¾ yards 42 inches wide.

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MONOPOLIES OF THE EARTH

In this age of much discussion of monopolies and monopolistic tendencies, it is worthy of notice that an extraordinary proportion of the surface of the globe is under a few flags. It is held chiefly by half a dozen nations.

One empire, the British, contains nearly one-fourth of the land surface of the planet on which 1,500,000,000 human beings, more or less, live. It also counts fully 25 per cent of the inhabitants of the earth as it subjects, writes Benjamin Karr, in the Cleveland Leader.

The Chinese empire has another quarter, at least, of the people on this globe, but it includes only about 8 per cent of the land area.

The Russian empire differs radically from these Chinese proportions by embracing 17 per cent of the land of the earth, although it contains only 10 per cent of the total population.

How many Americans realize, even in their proudest moments of national feeling, that more than 7 per cent of the dry surface of the globe is under the Stars and Stripes, or that over 6 per cent of the human race owe allegiance to this republic?

France and the French colonies contain nearly 6 per cent of the population of the planet and cover 8 per cent of its land.

These five nations, including their possessions everywhere, have about 63 per cent of the globe, and their subjects and citizens together number 72 per cent of the human family.

Add the German empire, with 5 per cent of the population of the world and over 2 per cent of the earth's land surface, and Brazil, contributing only 1 per cent of the population of the globe, but possessing more than 6 per cent of the land, and seven states account for 78 pre cent of the people in the world and 71 per cent of the surface, which is not covered by the oceans.

That is a very fair parallel for the trust and monopoly tendencies of the age in business. It is the biggest of all consolidation movements.

For the growth of the largest empires in the life of the present generation has been tremendous. By far the larger part of Africa has passed under the flags of Great Britain, France, Germany, and Belgium. Russia has annexed Turkistan, Great Britain has taken possession of Burma, France has seized a large part of Indo-China, England and Germany have divided the great island of New Guinea between them, France has conquered Madagascar, the United States has taken the Philippines and Porto Rico from Spain, and made Hawaii an American Territory.

In the vast Asiatic continent, much the largest of all, more than half of the total area belongs to European powers, and there are only six independent Asiatic states, outside of the desert tribes of Arabia, China, Japan, Persia, Turkey, Siam, and Afghanistan make up the list.

It is a farce to call Korea independent now, and Beluchistan and Cambodia are pratically British and French, respectively. Persia is tottering, Afghanistan is dominated by Great Britain, and China is saved by international jealousies. Siam balances between Great Britain and France. Turkey is in a dangerous and uncertain position.

Just one Asiatic state stands firmly and squarely on its own feet, full of vitality and power. Japan is all alone.

There are striking contrasts between the grand divisions in respect to their absorption by a few great powers. Omitting certain comparatively unimportant islands, all of North America is under eight flags, and, except for Central America, there are just three—the Stars and Stripes, the union jack, and the banner of Mexico.

South America is smaller in area and population, but there are thirteen nations ruling that continent. Brazil has half of its entire area. Brazil and Argentina together account for 70 per cent of its surface and more than half of its inhabitants, but Colombia, Chile, Peru, Venezuela, and Bolivia all have room enough and possibilities enough to become important members of the great family of nations.

The remainder of South America belongs to three independent states—Ecuador, Uruguay, and Paraguay—which have doubtful prospects, and three European powers—Great Britain, France, and the Netherlands—which divide Guiana between them.

Europe has more independent countries than any other continent, but only six really count in its greater affairs. Just seven, excluding Turkey, which is really an Asiatic power, have more than 8,000,000 inhabitants, and that is a low limit where six nations range from 33,000,000 in Italy, up to the vast bulk of Russia and the British empire.

Australia, coming latest into notice, is almost completely monopolized by one power. Everywhere the tendencies of the age are in the direction of consolidation and the expansion of the great nations at the cost of the small.

Wise Ways for Wives.

From the Philadelphia Star.

In stitching any thin, soft material such as silk or net, that persists in puckering under the presser-foot, try stitching a strip of newspaper with the seam. After the stitching is done the paper may be torn away and the seam will be perfectly smooth. The paper tears more easily and with better results if stitched lengthwise on the page, just as cloth often tears better one way than the other.

When washing woodwork use a piece of tin two feet long and six inches wide along as you work. The same may be used to keep window glass clean when painting window sashes.

ROYAL STAMP COLLECTOR

King George a Zealous Devotee of Science of Philately. Other Rulers Also Have Collections.

Because it is the custom of Great Britain and her colonies to illustrate all stamps of regular issues with the portrait of the reigning sovereign, there is about to be a general change in all the numerous issues of that empire upon whose shores the sun never sets.

So, from Antigua, in the West Indies, to the Fiji Islands, in Oceania; from Griqualand, in Africa, to Sungei Ujong, in Asia; from Prince Edward Island, in North America, to the Falkland Islands, in South America, the picture of King George is to take the place of that of the late and lamented King Edward VII on stamps of the realm.

America, according to dispatches from London, is to have the first postage stamps bearing the portrait of the new King. Orders have already been given for lithographing a new half-cent stamp for Canada and a new 5-cent stamp for Newfoundland. The designs were approved personally by the King.

* * * *

The new stamps of England are expected to follow closely, and throughout the world, wherever the British flag waves and wherever John Bull's post extends there will be a rapid elimination of the

The late King and his widow.

King George and his Queen.

Prince of Wales. Victoria in 1837 and 1897.

present designs and a replacing of them with little mail carriers bearing the picture of King George.

I am told that the number of varieties of stamps that will undergo a change is not less than 370.

It is a coincidence that pictures of King George and his Queen have already appeared on those colonies that are to be the first to picture him as King.

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The half-cent tercentenary issue of Quebec in 1908 bore the portraits of the then Prince and Princess of Wales, now King and Queen of England. The 5-cent Newfoundland, of 1898, showed the present King, and the 4-cent stamp of that land in 1901 portrayed the then princess.

The present Prince of Wales was portrayed on the half cent of Newfoundland in 1898. Stamps of that same set bore portraits of the late Queen Victoria, King Edward, and his widowed Queen.

Victoria's picture appeared on innumerable stamps prior to her demise, and various issues showed her at different periods of her reign from her coronation to the very year of her death.

On the occasion of Victoria's jubilee, thirteen years ago, Canada issued a special stamp showing two pictures of her—one at the time of her coronation in 1837 and the other depicting her at the date of the jubilee, 1897.

Upon the death of Victoria her face was succeeded by that of Edward on the stamps of Britain and her colonies, just as Edward's is now about to be succeeded by that of King George.

It is a very interesting fact that the present King of England is himself an ardent student of stamps and of stamp collecting. To some extent it was through his influence that his royal father raised the London philatelic society to a plane with other scientific organizations of the realm, changing its name from a more commonplace one to the Royal Philatelic Society.

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King George has been the active president of this very notable organization, and has always taken a deep interest in its proceedings and welfare. He has attended its meetings and its exhibitions, and he has been an exhibitor at these latter as well.

His collection of stamps is said to be worth £500,000. He gathered it with great care and gives it his personal attention. In evidence of his intense interest in the science, it may be cited that in 1904, he purchased at auction for $7,500, a rare 2 penny stamp of Mauritius.

The new King has frequently intrusted his most precious specimens to private and public exhibitions. He has contributed, too, to stamp literature, giving results of personal research in the philatelic field. One of his papers concerned a rather intricate question that had to do with the manufacture of the paper on which the first stamp of Denmark was printed.

* * * *

At a meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society a short time ago, he read a paper prepared after diligent study on "The Postal Issues of the United Kingdom During the Present Reign"—a paper that will always be an authority on a most important phase of modern philately.

And so it seems to pass that philatelists the world over are deeply interested in the new British sovereign not alone for the reason that his portrait is to play a conspicuous part in stampdom, but because King George himself is a zealous devotee of their science, and they will feel more than ever that they have a "friend at court."

The collecting of "King's head" stamps has been a favorite phase of philately for several years. It promises to be still more popular now.

FROM WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW.

It is difficult to understand the curiosity upon which feminine nature feeds, the keen interest in the affairs of others which prompts women to listen at keyholes and door cracks, to sit at windows in darkened rooms or behind closed blinds with peep-holes through which the goings and comings of neighbors can be observed, but we know that they exist. We know that mischief lurks in every corner by reason of them.

* * * *

There are two women living on a secluded street who just wait for night fall and the enjoyment they find in the clandestine meetings of men and women who have no right to be together, many of whom are recognized by the watchers. Do they keep these secrets? Surely not. They are retailed from house to house, and occasionally reach the ears of persons who are able to make things lively for the culprits.

* * * *

Offenders against laws of any kind deserve punishment, but it might be allowed to travel through proper channels. Curiosity of a personal nature is not wholesome, and it is a pity that it should be allowed to crowd out the many useful and healthy things of life. We never have time enough to enjoy nature to its full, to lend a helping hand to all who need it, to read all that is worth reading and see all that should be seen, and if we squander our time upon such ignoble pursuits as spying and gossiping we are cheating ourselves shamefully.

* * * *

The affairs of others should have no interest for us save in cases where they touch our lives. If any woman has a better way of doing anything, it should appeal to our interest. We should take notice of illness in which we can lend a bit of assistance or show some signs of sympathy. We may not approve of much we see, but that does not give us the right to criticise or discuss it publicly. The right of living according to individual taste is tacitly conceded, provided the laws of the land are satisfied.

* * * *

It is easy to cultivate the habit of fault-finding; it is extremely difficult to train one's self to the task of picking out virtues and ignoring faults. It is not easy to forget things we see and hear, and the tongue is an unruly member that occupies the position of the ungoverned children we see on every hand. Women are not alone in indiscreet speech, for many men in high places have paid dearly for an unguarded tongue, but as a sex we are given to a quality of curiosity which is not common to men.

BETTY BRADEEN.

A fine lawn waist need not be discarded because of a hole, or through fear of an unsightly patch. Take a piece of the material, wet it in cold starch and lay under the hole. Iron smoothly, and then see the result—a neat patch wthout sewing!

To keep a fine gloss on your varnished floors, sprinkle with coarse salt; let remain for five minutes, then sweep off with a soft broom. Do this and your floors will look as if newly varnished.

A camp chair is a handy thing in a kitchen. It can be hung on the wall or kept under the table when not in use.

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