

**A Word to Contributors.**

The Indianapolis *Herald* publishes the following sensible advice to contributors to the newspapers:

There is one mistake which amateur writers for the press usually make, probably more from a lack of knowledge of what an editor wants than otherwise, and that is in the selection of their subjects. As a general rule they choose some abstract theme which can only be made interesting to the public by the charm and perfection of its treatment, and the ability to give it such a treatment is the very thing their inexperienced pens lack. Obviously the proper subject for the amateur writer to choose is that which will interest his audience, not alone by the method of its treatment, but because they will wish to hear about the thing for its own sake. Such subjects are usually of a local character. They are the things which "lie nearest us, lie close about our feet." Why not write of these? Not, certainly, because they do not afford sufficient scope for the exercise of one's literary talents; for some of the most exquisite literary work that has ever been done is that which embalms such simple little incidents, whether real or imaginary to the writer, as occur every day among us all. In every town there are scores of things constantly taking place which never find their way into the newspapers and yet are, many of them, more interesting than much of the news that is published. The editor would be glad to publish them, his readers would hail their appearance with pleasure, but they pass unrecorded simply because those who see or hear of these incidents will not write of them. They fancy the game is too small for their guns, and soar away into the realms of the imaginary to meet the greatest authors, dead and living, upon their own ground.

Our one word of advice to the amateur writer, if he wishes his work to be published and read, is to "fling away" his superfluous ambition and direct his attention to those humble things which are transpiring before his eyes. Let him expend upon these as much thought and labor as he does on his abstract and imaginative efforts and the result will be far more profitable to himself and gratifying to his friends. While the *Herald* is always ready to publish contributions of sufficient literary merit to deserve a place in its columns, it receives with special pleasure well written accounts of current events of a local character.

The persistent search for new gums allied to gutta percha and rubber has been rewarded by a new gum which has been named "Belata." It is won from the "bully tree," a native of the Amazon region, and in appearance it is said to closely resemble gutta percha, though it is tougher and more flexible. It is tasteless and has an agreeable odor when warmed. It may be joined piece to piece at 120 Fahrenheit, and melts at 270 Fahrenheit; is soluble in cold benzene and carbon disulphide and in warm turpentine. It may be strongly electrified by friction and is a better insulator than gutta percha. It is thought that the gum will find many uses in the arts.

**Speculation.**

Since the creation, it is estimated that 27,000,000,000,000,000 have lived on the earth. This sum divided by 27,964,000, the number of square miles, gives 1,314,622,086 to a square rod, and 5 to a square foot. Suppose a square rod be divided into 11 graves, each grave would contain 100 persons. But this is speculation, and of no benefit to the 1,000,000,000 people that now exist, 500,000,000 of whom are invalids, 33,000,000 dying each year. What they most want are the facts concerning Dr. Pierce's Family Medicines. For years his Golden Medical Discovery has been the standard remedy for the cure of all scrofulous, throat and lung diseases. While for over a quarter of a century Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy has been unrivaled as a positive cure for catarrh. The testimony of thousands of ladies has been published, certifying that Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription positively cures the diseases and weaknesses peculiar to women. For full information, see the People's Common Sense Medical Adviser, an illustrated work of over 900 pages, price (post-paid), \$1.50. Over 100,000 copies sold. Address the author, R. V. Pierce, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y.

On the Continent many fields of labor are open to women. They manage large shops, and have hotels of their own; are in railway offices, government, and nearly all have some trade or employment of their own, and in many cases in France the husband boards with his wife—and pays his board, too.

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