

The ONLOOKER
by WILBUR D. NESBIT

The Annual Scandal



What was the deed
Of which they chatter
As gossip feeds
On some small matter?
Each August they
Seem to remember
And fuss away
All through September.

"She did," says one;
"Did not!" another.
And thus began
They try to smother
Each other's cries
By louder calling
Until the skies
Repeat their bawling.

Was it a sin,
Or error weighty,
That came within
The life of Katy?
One lifts his voice
Just to attack her
And ten rejoice
Right then to back her.

And all thier tones
Get in a tangle;
One side condones,
The others wrangle.
We know her name,
And thus her gender—
But what's the claim
Of her defender?

Know what she was?
Know what she wasn't?
One shriek does,
The other doesn't.
Poor Katy! It
Still seems a toss-up,
But you're a bit
Of yearly gossip.

Undismayed.
Tried to the breaking point of his endurance, the man arises from his desk, grasps the book agent by the collar, rushes him to the door and heads him for the street, planting a well directed kick upon the place designed and provided by nature to receive kicks. With a howl of pain he seizes his foot in both hands. "My toe! My toe!" he cries. "It is broken!"

Suavely the book agent turns, deftly removes the offending volume from a capacious pocket in the rear of his trousers and says:

"Permit me to call your attention to Doctor Healem's Family Compendium of Cures for Everything. I am now selling the few remaining sample copies at half price. On page 38 you will find in simple terms full directions for first aid to broken bones of all sorts."

A Saving of Speech.
We hear the story of the climb
Of him who has been self-made,
But when he talks most all the time
For him who has been self-made.

A Woman of Foresight.
The two men are discussing the various accomplishments of their respective wives.

"My wife," says the first man, "is as happy as a lark these days. She is rushing to and fro, buying all manner of Christmas remembrances."

"My wife did her Christmas shopping a month ago," observes the second man.

"But my wife told me your wife was going with her today to buy presents for a lot of people."

"I know. She did all her Christmas shopping a month ago, as I say, and that enables her to buy gifts now for those she forgot when she was doing her regular Christmas shopping."

Rich With Carbon.
"I had a searchlight lunch at that little country store," says the automobilist, recounting the adventures on his last trip.

"A searchlight lunch?" inquire the hearers, with puzzled expressions.

"Yes—mostly currants."

Thus we see that as the automobile is a great advance over the primitive ox cart, so is the searchlight-currant a modern development of the electric plant-currant crop witticism.

Sympathy.
"Yes, she is going to marry me," proudly says the homely man.

The other cannot conceal his surprise.

"You?" he cries.

"Yes, sir. Love is blind, you know."

At this the other, who had fondly hoped to win the lady himself, remarks sentimentally:

"Lucky!"

Wilbur Nesbit

TO MAKE CONCRETE CULVERT
Proper Drainage is Foundation of Good Roads—Plan for Making Substantial Form.

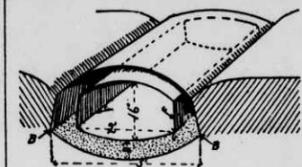
The proper drainage with good culvert is the foundation of good roads. Concrete stands at the head of the class of materials for culverts and abutments.

Excavate to the depth of 3 feet and width of 6 feet, and the full width of the road. Set up and stake in place two planks or slabs 10 inches wide, as shown at BB in the picture. As these pieces are to remain in place, they may be of any ordinary stuff just good enough to hold the concrete in place until it sets. These pieces are set 5 feet at the end where the water starts in and 5½ at the lower end. They should have a fall of 1 inch to each foot in length. Now, put a layer of concrete 6 inches deep, and hollow out and smooth down. Raise the side toward BB, keeping them in position as shown in the picture.

Set up 10-inch boards cc 18 inches from BB. This will make the walls of culvert 18 inches thick, and the opening 2 feet wide at the upper end, and 2 feet and 6 inches at the lower. As the forms are being filled with concrete, sand or gravel should be filled in at "a" for a core, which afterward may be shoveled out and earth filled in behind the outside pieces to hold it in position.

When the form is filled to the top of the planks the center, or core, should be rounded up with sand to form the arch of opening in the culvert. This sand should be packed solid and smoothed off nicely so the surface of the arch will be smooth.

A plank should be set up at each end of the culvert before any concrete is put in, so the ends will be smooth and look well. Wings, or side walls may be built at the same time as the



Concrete Culvert Form.

culvert by cutting off the ends of BB 10 inches, or 1 foot, and running a form out as long as the wings are wanted.

Proportions for concrete: Two parts sand; four parts coarse gravel or crushed stone; one part Portland cement.

The sand and cement should be mixed dry. The gravel, if not damp, should be dampened, then mix with the sand and cement. Turn the mixture three times, dry, and add enough water to make a thick mortar; turn two more times and shovel into the forms; puddle or pack into the forms with stamping stick or piece of 2x4-inch scantling.

When finished let stand one day, then put on the earth which will help to dry out the concrete all alike.

Any time after one week the same may be shoveled out.

Now you have a culvert of one solid piece; one that will not rot out, wash away, nor can it be torn down by the boys while hunting rabbits.

Pumpkins Good Feed.
Pumpkins are good hog and cattle feed, but do not feed all of them immediately. Save some for late winter feeding. The animals will relish them better than they do now. The green in them will aid digestion when the animals are on dry feed.

FARM NOTES

Cow peas, flax and millet are good sod crops.

The greatest weed distributing agency is the threshing crew.

The only way to decrease smut in corn is to pluck off the smut-balls and burn them.

Clean the seed wheat. Clean seed and the big, plump berries will increase next season's yield.

Farm machinery is expensive and to allow it to stand exposed to the elements causes an enormous waste.

Good plowing is economical in every sense of the word, and no amount of supplementary work will take its place.

The first requisite for insuring a good wheat crop, granted a favorable season, is a well-prepared and enriched seed bed.

A crop planted in deep ground will stand more drought and mature with half the cultivation required by a crop on shallow ground.

Potatoes that have been well protected all through the season by the Bordeaux spray are not so likely to rot in cellar or pit.

Applying a fertilizer rich in phosphorus with moderate amounts of potassium and nitrogen will prove valuable on most pasture lands.

If roughage is scarce, stack well the wheat straw. Bright wheat straw will go a long way toward filling out a season of short roughage crops.

Few farmers recognize that a pasture needs fertilizing, that the constant removal of fertility reduces the crop-producing powers of the land.

We are prone to let a few weeds go to seed in the fall, hoping that frost will prevent seeding. But the risk is too great. We should watch the corners and clean the garden as well as the spring.

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The Tempest



(With the usual apologies.)
We were huddled in the parlor,
Not a soul inclined to chat,
For my mother and three sisters
Each had purchased a new hat.

(They'll be fearful things next winter
If they're worse than in the fall,
For the crowns are inches higher
And the prices, too, are tall.)

So we shuddered there in silence
While dear mother heaved a sigh,
Waiting for our darling father—
To see what they'd had to buy.

Father came, and gazed a moment,
Then he spoke—but not in prayer,
"I am broke!" at last he shouted
As he staggered up the stair.

But his baby daughter whispered
As she took his empty hand:
"Styles will not be changed in halos
When we reach the golden strand."

Then he kissed the little maiden
For her soothing words of cheer,
And he spent the evening singing:
"Oh, I would not linger here!"

Number One, Perhaps.
"I see Mark Twain says there are only seven original jokes, and that all the others are variations of the seven," says the gentleman with the lurking smile to the individual with typewriter ribbon stain on his fingers and thumbs. "What are the original seven?"

"I don't know them all, but I think Mark's statement is one of them," replies the individual, turning doggedly to his task of writing a bonnet about ice cream spoiling the complexion and cold cream restoring it.

A Psalm of Hair.
Heads of bald men offend us
That our hair would be sublime
If the tonic men could find us
While there yet was lots of time.



Sleep Within Sleep.
"John," said his wife, "I called you half a dozen times for breakfast this morning and finally had to shake you to rouse you. Really I was alarmed. I began to think you had sunk into a state of coma."

"It was something like that, I suppose," John said. "I was dreaming that I was in church."

To Be Exact.
"Mr Shortfellow," said the caller, "there is a great deal about your last poem that I do not understand."

"Ah, indeed?" smiled the poet. "We often find that when one sets forth the concrete result of his moments of inspiration it is likely to be so enshrouded in imagery or mystic expression that the average reader does not seem able to understand the poem."

"Oh, I understand the poem, all right enough," said the caller. "What I can't understand is why you wrote it."

Her Mistake.
"That little toaster in the dining-room is cute," says the young wife to the agent of the building, "but I simply can't get it to toast the bread. You'll have to have it fixed."

"Toaster? What do you mean, Mrs. Hopes?"

"Why, that darling little toaster in the corner by the window."

"That isn't a toaster, madam. It's a steam radiator!"

No Wonder.
"Mr. Roosevelt is certainly an able writer," says the man with ashes on his vest.

"He is that," agrees the man with the futed hair. "And his record in Africa shows conclusively that he could be one of the greatest journalists in the world."

"I hadn't thought of him as a newspaper man."

"But hasn't he a wonderful nose for gnu?"

Wilbur Nesbit

Away With Dull Care

Come to us and we will show you a sight that will make you feel young again. Our display of Holiday Goods excels. Leather goods, china, Indian curios, everything suitable for gifts. The finest hot drinks in the city.

The - Palace - Drug - Store

OF INTEREST TO THE COOK

Some Culinary Hints of Importance—Excellent Method of Serving Toothsome Cucumber.

French dressing served with plain lettuce is most attractive looking if seasoned with aprica, which gives it a rich coral color.

An egg that has not been boiled long enough can be quickly hardened by putting the egg cup containing it in boiling water. That improves the flavor.

A pleasant change from cream cheese is cheese flavored with pimientos. It can readily be molded into balls.

Cottage cheese must be eaten the day it is mixed in hot weather, as it quickly sours. Double or whipping cream improves it.

Cucumbers in half lengthwise, peel and put in ice water unsalted for 20 minutes. Place flat side down on platter on which they are to be served, slice, keeping shape. Garnish with button radishes or larger ones cut into sections or thin, round slices. Cover with thick French dressing.

Cucumbers are better to eat and look at if the rinds are cut in two lengthwise, hollowed, and filled with the mixture, finely shredded and mixed with French dressing.

Have you ever tried making French dressing over a big lump of ice? The ingredients are put in a bowl around the ice and thoroughly mixed by lifting it up over the lump until it becomes a thick, chilled emulsion.

CHEERFUL SPIRIT A DUTY

Happy Disposition Largely a Matter of Individual Habit and Can Be Acquired Easily.

Comparatively few persons possess uniformly cheerful dispositions. Most of us have our sad hours and moods. But whatever the disposition, we are bound by the laws of our own being, and by those of our social relations, to cultivate the virtues of cheerfulness, assiduously and constantly.

No one has a right to injure his neighbor's happiness any more than to interfere with his pecuniary property, and one cannot indulge in venting ill-humor and spleen with gloomy forebodings and complaints, or even carrying a sour, frowning visage without sensibly diminishing the enjoyment or comfort of others, and thus infringing on their rights, says an exchange.

Any individual who tries to do so can win himself from despondency and surliness. The power of enjoyment is in itself a faculty capable of improvement, and as practice always enhances power, it is a good thing to form the habit of enjoyment. It is not true that the sources of pleasure are few and rare, but it is sadly true that we pass them unnoticed.

We crave the excitement of business, or politics, or fashionable life, and forget the world of innocent enjoyment we trample under foot. Nature and art offer their treasure in vain; the liveliness of childhood, the attractions of home, the real satisfaction of honest labor, the simple pleasure of little things, all plead for utterance and we repulse them.

How can we possess a cheerful spirit and a glad heart when we scornfully despise our simple pleasures? Every innocent means of happiness should be welcomed, and gloomy thoughts persistently banished.

Scotch Shortbread.

One-half pound flour, one-quarter pound unsalted butter, two ounces powdered sugar. Sift flour into bowl, rub in the butter smoothly and add sugar. Knead well with the hand until soft enough to hold together. Form into a ball, press with the palm of the hand until half an inch thick and level the top with rolling pin. Butter a sheet of note paper and lay on a sheet tin. Decorate the edges with the fingers. Bake in a slow oven until firm and pale brown.

Sea and Sun in Harness.

It would certainly not be amazing if we should live to see both old ocean and older sun hitched up and working like blazes in harness in team together. The task is not more incredible than the wireless or the telephone. But these two hitched up to work as servants by the day, year and century would tap an inexhaustible, eternal store of working energy at a time when alarm is justly beginning to be felt at our steadily fleeing resources. One inventor has an alloy that turns sun heat into electricity. Many have long ago shown that wave and tide powers can be turned into electric energy. Not commercially practical as yet. But, cheer up; never despair.

POSTS HER VISITING RULES

Mrs. Appleton Has Set of Good-Natured Hints on Her Guest-Room Door.

Mrs. Lysander John Appleton has done so much visiting herself that she realizes how many things arise to cause discomfort to a guest, and has had printed and framed a set of rules which hangs on her guest-room door, similar to those that hang in hotel bedrooms.

"1. Don't bow the head at meals as if expecting grace. We don't ask it unless the preacher is present, and a guest's expectation of a religious observance that isn't coming is embarrassing to the family. 2. Make yourself at home, but don't expect us to treat you like one of the family. We want to retain your friendship. 3. If a guest knows any wonderful experiences of women who have made money by keeping a cow, the hostess will appreciate it if they are told in the presence of Mr. Appleton. 4. Pay no heed to slighting remarks about company made by Chauncey Devere. He takes after his father. 5. Don't leave your toothbrush when you depart. The washstand drawer is filled with toothbrushes left by guests, and every one has been used and is therefore useless to the Appleton family. 6. When the preacher calls, don't stay in the parlor. Your hostess finds herself reinforced for the trials of life if she can have a short season of prayer with her pastor alone. 7. All visits due the hostess and her daughters promptly collected. 8. The printed slips attached showing the High Cost of Keeping up a Dining Room Table are for free distribution. Help Yourself."—Atchison Globe.

A Twenty-Century Old Example.

We will never bring disgrace to this our city by an act of dishonesty or cowardice, nor ever desert our suffering comrades in the ranks; we will fight for the ideals and sacred things of the city, both alone and with many; we will rever and obey the city's laws, and do our best to incite a like respect and reverence in those above us who are prone to annul and set them at naught; we will strive unceasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty; that thus, in all these ways, we will transmit this city not only not less, but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.—Oath Taken by Citizens of Athens.

To Restore Injured Color in Fabrics.

When the color of any dress fabric has been injured or destroyed by an acid substance, ammonia should be applied to neutralize the acid, after which an application of chloroform will, in almost all cases fully restore the original color. The application of ammonia is common, but the virtue of the chloroform application appears to be little known. As the coloring of your natural linen-colored chamberly has been injured by the acid of orange juice, the above method treatment will serve without doubt to restore it and leave no trace of the injury.

Rhubarb Jam.

Add to each pound of rhubarb cut without peeling a pound of sugar and one lemon. Pare the yellow peel from the lemon, taking care to get none of the bitter white pith. Slice the pulp of the lemon in an earthen bowl, discarding the seeds.

Put the rhubarb into the bowl with the sugar and lemon, cover and stand away in a cool place over night. In the morning turn into the preserving kettle, simmer gently three-quarters of an hour or until thick, take from the fire, cool a little and pour into jars.

GREEN TOMATOES THE BEST

For Frying, the Unripe Ones Will Always Be Found to Give the Most Satisfaction.

Now that the tomato season is here, the fact that green tomatoes are more delicately flavored and more delicious fried than the red ones usually cooked in that way is worth a word of reminder. Jot it down in the household new idea book to be tried for breakfast some morning or at luncheon, with or without a meat dish.

Cut into thin slices some large, perfectly green specimens (they must not have begun to show any sign of ripening, and those freshly pulled are really the best for the dish), sprinkle with salt and dip in cornmeal until covered. Sauté in a little butter until a nice brown. Cover the frying pan throughout the cooking process to keep the tomatoes tender. They may be brought to table with the accompaniment of a brown sauce or plain.

WHY PEOPLE SEE PHANTOMS

Hallucinations of Famous Characters Due to Abnormal Sensibility of the Nervous System.

A morbid condition of the organs of sense or of delirium, is sufficient to invest our mental conceptions with phantom shape. Our thoughts vary, according to the violence of our emotions, from faint mental pictures to vivid and almost corporal apparitions. The strength of these sensational influences is naturally proportionate to the susceptibility of the nervous organism.

A consideration of these facts in conjunction with the acknowledged neuropathic tendencies of genius seems to illumine many of the mysterious anecdotes with which the names of great men and women are associated. The hallucinations of Mahomet and of Joan of Arc, the appearance of his dying wife to Doctor Donne in Paris and Luther's discomfiture of the devil by summary contusion with a missile ink bottle, to mention but a few instances, prosaically resolve into cases of abnormal sensibility of the nervous system. Who would learn with surprise that Lucretius, Hawthorne or Emily Bronte saw ghosts? It should rather be an occasion for wonder that genius is ever free from the visitations of specters.

CARE OF THE LAWN MOWERS

Attention to Small Details Will Greatly Prolong Usefulness of This Needed Summer Utensil.

Lawn mowers are self-sharpening and when they do not cut the grass properly it is because the screws need setting, and not because the blades are dull. To make the lawn mower cut smoothly adjust the screws on the side of the stationary knife or blade. Loosen the front screw and tighten the back screw, so that the front sharp edge of the stationary blade will be raised closer to the rotary blades. Then, if the lawn mower is still not sharp enough also tighten the screws that fasten the rotary blades, so that they will be lowered closer to the stationary blade. To illustrate: A pair of scissors whose screw is loose will not cut, but tighten the screw, thereby bringing the blades together, and the scissors will cut again. Do not sharpen a lawn mower by filing the edges of blades, for if you do you will increase the space between the rotary blades and stationary blade and your lawn mower will cut worse than before you tried to sharpen it. Although this hint will be new and valuable to men mostly, by prolonging the life of a lawn mower it is a household economy and housewives should welcome a hint that affects household expenses favorably.

RECIPE FOR COFFEE CAKES

Ingredients That Go to Make Confection Popular on Almost All Breakfast Tables.

To two egg yolks beaten till creamy, add one-half cup fine granulated sugar with a pinch of salt, beating till very light. All four tablespoons very strong and fine flavored coffee, and a scant cupful of flour into which is mixed one small teaspoonful baking powder. Lastly, add two egg-whites beaten stiff, having one-half cup granulated sugar beaten in. Bake on sheets in a hot oven. Cut when cool into small rounds with tin cutter; put two together and cover with the following cream: Whip till stiff one jar of heavy cream, adding one-quarter cup sugar, and just as much coffee as the cream will take without thinning, beating in a little at a time, perhaps two tablespoonfuls. Beat one egg-white stiff, adding one-quarter cup sugar, a little at a time, beating vigorously; add this to the whipped cream. The pieces of cake left over in cutting out the rounds can be utilized for a dessert. Put the cake in bottom of glass dish or punch cups, then a layer of fruit; then whipped cream.

Bran Biscuit.

Stir together two cupfuls wheat bran, one cupful flour, a cupful and a half sour milk, a quarter cupful butter, a teaspoonful soda and three tablespoonfuls of molasses. Make like white biscuit and bake.

Sense of Superiority.

"Eliggins seems exceedingly self-confident."
"Yes, he has just bought an encyclopedia and feels that if he doesn't know more than any of the rest of us he can whenever he chooses."