

Published by Chronicle Ptg. Co., Ltd.
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COLFAX, LOUISIANA

THE STAY AT HOME.

To travel with a well-filled purse, a well-stocked mind, a sharp and intelligent curiosity—that is a delight. To take a sea trip as a tonic—that is rational, too. But to go abroad, as certain persons do by the shipload, for the mere sake of locomotion; to be able to say they have crossed the water (often at the cost of unspeakable agonies); to stand ignorant upon historic battlefields, dumb and unappreciative before the great shrines of art; to pass from city to city without knowledge of their teeming past, from state to state, oblivious of their political relations, their polity, their economic condition—that is incarnate folly afoot. They were better off at home in a hammock. Dr. Samuel Johnson views the matter shrewdly. "The use of traveling," he says, "is to regulate imagination by reality, and instead of thinking how things may be, to see them as they are," says the Philadelphia Press. The doctor lived long before the days of the perfected camera and moving picture. To make the grand tour in his time was almost requisite to a polite and liberal education. It is still desirable, though rather a perquisite. The stay-at-home man and woman, if established in happy environment, occupied with congenial and profitable duties, and unmolested by the diabolic spirit which urges contented folk to roam, have all the best of life at hand and only happiness to lose by roving. Goldsmith found it so and cried: "The first, best country ever is at home."

After deep thought Prof. Prentiss C. Hoyt, of Clark College, proffers the opinion that there is no such thing as American humor. It is not American, but just individual and personal, thinks the professor. It may argue some temerity to contradict a college professor. We seem to remember that one newspaper which so far forgot the properties and eternal verities as to "get gay" with Prof. Oscar Lovell Triggs, of Chicago, was haled into court for it, says the Milwaukee Sentinel. But really Professor Clark gets on debatable ground in denying the existence of that commonly recognized entity, American humor. Surely there is a distinctively American twang to the drollery of our typical American humorists, and a family resemblance that makes their productions recognizable as American in a moment. Artemus Ward and Mark Twain had their separate individualities; but they had their common national characteristic, and their fun is racy of the soil it sprang from.

Back of the royal pageantry at the opening of the British Parliament, in which the royal family, the court dignitaries, the peers and the peeresses had front places, with all the splendor of attire and adornment which befits such occasions, there stands the plain fact that after all the people rule. This is signified by the announcement that the Liberal government has obtained from the king a guarantee that "in a certain contingency" there will be created a sufficient number of new peers to give the government control of the House of Lords. The "certain contingency" means the omission or refusal of the Lords to accept the veto provision which the Liberal government has prepared and which has the indorsement of two general elections, direct appeal having been made to the people.

American schools get another compliment, this time at the conference of the British Institute for Social Service in London, when Charles P. Trevelyan, Parliamentary Secretary for Education, speaking of the importance of physical training of youths as a foundation for national health, declared the United States to be far ahead of England in providing public playgrounds and in affording opportunities of exercise for the young. Mr. Trevelyan showed the sincerity of his sentiment by urging England to follow the American example. The tribute to the excellence of American practice is all the more significant in view of the fact that England is regarded as a great "outdoor" country.

A Frenchman who is in jail has challenged a Frenchman who is out of jail to fight a duel, and the challenger has asked the authorities to let the challenger loose long enough for a meeting on the field of honor. You simply cannot beat the French for politeness.

Dr. Copp of the Pennsylvania hospital for the insane says every one is crazy now and then. The moments of derangement generally come when the butcher or the grocer gets through footing up the bill.

The New Yorker who gave a theater party for eight damsels whom he had loved and lost deserves a Carnegie medal.



CHARLES D. HILLES

CHARLES D. HILLES, who was assistant secretary of the treasury, has been chosen by President Taft to fill the position made vacant by the resignation of Private Secretary Charles D. Norton. Mr. Hilles will be the third incumbent of the responsible position in question. The first private secretary under the present administration was Fred Warner Carpenter. Mr. Hilles will be succeeded in the treasury department by Robert O. Bailey, who has been private secretary to Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh. Mr. Hilles is a young, forceful and indefatigable man, who, by temperament and training, is well fitted to discharge the delicate duties of his post.

STATUS OF CANCER

Results of Second International Congress Are Discussed.

Important Committee Work Has Been Carried Out and Matter of Research Has Been Organized Throughout World.

New York.—The present status of cancer is discussed in the Medical Record. The comments of the writer are based on the second international conference for the study of cancer, which was held recently in Paris. The first conference was held in Heidelberg and Frankfurt in 1906. The writer says: "During the interim important committee work has been carried out, the matter of research has been organized throughout the world, and now in this second meeting we are in position to understand something of what has been done along the lines projected during the last four years. The special papers read and the transactions as a whole will naturally be slow in reaching the public. But the Munchener Medizinische Wochenschrift published Von Czerny's inaugural address. This was delivered before a large and distinguished audience of laymen and physicians alike. Official Paris also was largely represented.

"Statistics, despite their fallaciousness, were first discussed by the speaker. The disease seems to be on the increase among all cultured folk. But certain limited localities report a notable decrease. This discrepancy is highly significant, for it involves the whole subject of the incidence of cancer. Thus we find, say, a 30 per cent. increase in recent years in certain countries; yet if we consider only restricted localities we may be justified in concluding that the disease is not only on the wane, but actually extinct, (for example, in many restricted localities, not a single cancer death has occurred for twenty-five years).

"Surely this absence of cancer in certain out-of-the-way localities cannot be an accident. From such data nearly every theory of cancer might receive support—especially those of contagion, food, soil, inheritance, not to mention many others. Of great significance in the collection of statistics is the anatomical incidence of the disease; but to this is opposed the fact that in localities where cancer is especially prevalent we are likely to find all locations of the disease.

"Von Czerny admits the cogency of a parasitic theory of cancer as long as we follow statistics. If we pursue this plan there is as much support of such a theory as in the case of any infectious disease. Aside from the argument furnished by statistics the bulk of the evidence tends to antagonize a parasitic theory. We find a wide line of demarcation between two groups, each of which is histologically and clinically malignant.

ly disposed to cause metastases and cachexia. Treatment of such cases is important.

"The two types of cancer can not be sharply separated clinically. Many growths which are technically superficial and epitheliomatous may, according to their location, grow rapidly, and with the aid of their acute local metastases may quickly wear out the patient. Certain growing technically local, but inaccessible because of location, may interfere with life indirectly by causing stricture and the like.

"In fact what would be termed a relatively mild, localized and operable cancer on the surface may have the most dire effects if it occur deep in the digestive tube. It may completely interrupt the digestive processes, cause stricture of the digestive tube, and its metastases, even when local, will be of an inoperable and fatal character.

COMET IS A HARMLESS HOBO

Scientist Enabled to Announce New Results in Cosmic Evolution Indorsed by Others.

Vallejo, Cal.—In concluding a series of lectures on astronomy Prof. T. J. J. See, U. S. N., astronomer in charge of Mare Island observatory, announced that the new theory of comets resulting from his long researches in cosmic evolution had been confirmed by the investigations of Prof. A. O. Leuschner of the University of California, and of Prof. Ellis Stromgren of the Royal observatory at Copenhagen, Denmark.

"At the time the tail of Halley's comet came so near the earth in last May," said Professor See, "I was able to conclude that the comets as a class are surviving fragments of our old nebula, but some additional points relating to a few comets remained to be cleared up. This has now been effected by Leuschner and Stromgren, who find, as I assumed last year, that all the comet orbits are elliptical, not one being really hyperbolic or parabolic, as generally believed since the days of Kepler.

"What was so mysterious to Kepler and Newton was the high eccentricity and great length of the major axis of the orbit of the comets, and the present solution of this difficulty thus definitely settles one of the great problems of the century.

"The comets are now proved to be survivals of the ancient nebula which formed our solar system, the fragments coming to us chiefly from the outer spherical shell of this nebula, the inner portion having been eaten out and rendered vacant through the capture and absorption of nebulousity by the planets.

"In fact, the planets have been built up out of the matter of comets which have been destroyed. Even our earth was made up of matter once existing in our nebula in the form of comets. When, therefore, we see a comet in the future, it will have no terror for anyone, for we may say, for the most part, it is mere dust, like

ternally located, without tendency to more than accessible metastases. But cancers which come thus to operation represent an insignificant minority. The remainder are made up of neglected operable cancers and those which were inoperable from the outset.

"To come back to the original subject, it is well to forget all we know and go back to school. In very recent years it has been shown that with appropriate nutriment cancer tissue may attain huge development. These cultural peculiarities are checked up in part by the role played by marked local irritation in ordinary tissues. It must not be forgotten that many irritants may cause the same or a similar effect. Hence, a special germ, or any germ at all, might at times cause a phenomenon analogous to cancer proliferation."

GIRLS' CLUB MAY CHEW GUM

Constitution is Prepared by Young Ladies Providing for Expulsion of Bold Members.

New York.—One hundred young women at the Labor temple, Second avenue and Fourteenth street, with the approval of Rev. Charles Stelzle, superintendent of the department of labor of the Presbyterian church, have formed the Girls' Diversity club and prepared their own constitution.

When Mr. Stelzle and Rev. R. P. Vaughan inspected the constitution they were puzzled by the words, "chewing allowed."

An investigation disclosed the true situation. They simply meant chewing gum, said Miss Panayiota Alexandrakis, the club leader. Part of the constitution follows:

"The rules should be kept honestly. Dues, a penny a week; no matter, present or absent, the penny must be paid. All are allowed to speak, but none must be bold. If a girl is spoken to more than twice for being bold she must be expelled. Chewing allowed. Stories and singing must not go on while we are working."

WIRELESS WORKS UNDER SEA

French Navy Carries Out Interesting Experiments by Transmitting Submarine Messages.

Paris.—Interesting experiments have been carried out with submarine and wireless telegraphy by the submarine flotilla at Cherbourg. By means of submarine bells messages were conveyed quite distinctly to the battleship Bouvines by four submarines, each at a distance of seven miles. As a result of this experiment the minister of marine has given instructions that all submarines shall be provided with these bells.

The submersible Prairial was also successful in signaling to the Bouvines by wireless telegraphy, all the vessels met by her between St. Waast, Cape de la Hogue and Cherbourg, and announcing her arrival in sight of the forts of Cherbourg. French submarines will in future be provided with wireless telegraphy apparatus.

Would Spurn Dancing Girl.

Denver, Col.—"If I were a bachelor I would not want to marry a girl who has been hugged for the last ten years by every man in her set," exclaimed Dr. Herbert Howe, dean of Denver university, at chapel exercises, in protesting against dances in the university gymnasium. Dean Howe characterized dancing as "hugging set to music."

FOR FLESHY WOMEN ONLY

Bathing Suits at Chicago Beaches, Approved by Park Commissioners, Not Adapted to Slim Ones.

Chicago.—It is not the slender, sinuous, sylphlike, willowy, wasp-waisted maid who really goes near the water. If slim princesses, however, would enjoy the pleasures of the north side bathing beaches this summer, they had better provide their own bathing garments. For the Lincoln park commissioners, in solemn conclave, have ordered next summer's supply of bathing suits, and 27 inches at the waist is the smallest thing ordered. And not many of the 27-inch sizes were ordered; the majority of the suits are fitted for more embonpoint. Investigation by the commission showed that surf bathing was regarded as a fat reducer, indulged in only by large women. The bloomer skirts for the municipal bathing suits will be of the standard type—no hobbles—and no lavish colors being permitted polka dots even being barred as making stout women appear larger.

Wireless Carries 4,492 Miles.

San Francisco.—It is claimed that a world's record for wireless communication between ship and shore was made when a message was received at a local station from the steamer Korea 4,492 miles away. The local operator heard a faint call from the Korea. The message could be distinguished: "Steamer Korea, 4,492 out; all well." The operator repeated the message and received an "O. K."

France Increases Navy.

Paris.—By a vote of 461 to 76, the chamber of deputies has agreed on the construction of two battleships at private yards. The understanding is that later units will be built at government arsenals.

Higher Plane City Man Towers Over Country Cousin

By ADA MAY KRECKER

ALTHOUGH there is much said and written of the return to nature and the call of the country and of the wild, the people after all are collecting more numerous than ever into the cities. And this although metropolitan life nearly always entails the sacrifice of many favorite creature comforts.

For the every-day person the city means flats instead of houses and public sidewalks for lawns and shade trees and smoke and dust for tonic pure fresh air and sundry other equally untoward exchanges. Country people often are startled at the inconveniences the city folk put up with, the little quarters they live in and the makeshifts they have for beds, bed chambers and other apartments and other furniture.

They miss their fresh milk and eggs and large rooms and porches and sunshine and gardens and flowers. They are saddened by the wan, furrowed faces of the city people. The city girls look faded to them and the men look worried, and everybody seems rushed and flurried and nervous.

Things are bleak and unkempt. There is too little green. There is too much that is big and unsightly and noisy and grimy.

Many people of course regard his daily program as distinctly unwholesome and make a great many uncomplimentary observations on his habits. They think he should go to bed earlier and not do so much in a day nor play so late at night nor choose the diversions that furnish his recreation. They think he is losing vitality and stamina, bodily and mentally and morally.

And yet with all his faults the city man stands a stage higher in civilization and in evolution than his hearty country cousin. He has more than vegetable necessities and animal enjoyments. He needs superphysical pleasures. His life is pitched to a higher key. His vibrations are less sluggish. Hence his rapid pace, his tense life. Hence his willingness to forego sleeping room and cream and sunlight.

The relish of the city man for his art, music and drama, be they as crude as they will, is simply an extension of the sphere of superphysical enjoyments. It is only when vitality is below par that he feels the call to the rural life and its bucolic animal delights. Then he lapses from the higher mental level of consciousness which is a comparatively recent achievement of the race down to the the heavy mindless brute existence which preceded the thought life by incalculable ages and therefore is by that measure the stronger. He wishes then to be as one world weary Chicago girl phrased it, "a human potato."



Steel Used in Small Flat Buildings

By A. WAGNER URMSTON

Thirty-six hundred dollars a day, or \$1,098,000 a year, is to be given to the steel trust by the new Chicago building code. This sum is to be required of the builders of small flats.

In every new two-story brick flat building to be erected in Chicago steel beam supporters, columns and girders are required for each floor and roof, which requires an extra expenditure of about \$300 in each building. No exceptions are made in the new code.

The man who builds a brick two flat building, 22 feet by 50 feet, must put in these steel supports, where formerly wood posts and girders through the basement with the partitions above have been considered sufficiently strong for buildings of this kind.

The additional expense for this steel work will average about \$300 each for two-story flat buildings of various dimensions and on an average of 12 buildings a day means \$3,600 a day, or for 305 days in the year \$1,098,000 a year—to be expended for steel for the benefit of the steel trust.

This is an unnecessary expense in most cases for builders of the moderate priced flat buildings. Who is to blame? This will bear investigating.

Unkind Flings at the "Maiden Lady"

By H. L. MARSH St. Paul, Minn.

A letter recently published, signed by "Carrots," closes with an unkind fling at the "maiden lady." But why the "old maid" jest? When one sees on every hand such "mortal homely" and utterly unattractive women who are married it is difficult to believe that any woman, if she cared to, might not wed.

The men who would be at all desirable as life partners seem to me to be exceedingly scarce. So it should be more commendable than otherwise when a woman of discrimination chooses single blessedness to yoking up with some man. Although married and never having belonged to the class mentioned, I always am indignant when I hear that term applied derisively. I contend that women have as good right to their liberty and the single life as has one of the masculine gender.

Anyway, these are perilous times for the married folk. A wife never knows what morning she'll wake up and find herself beaten to a pulp or some kind of widow (sod or grass) with perhaps several helpless offspring to be supported by her own labor.

But, as one girl remarked: "A woman will stop rubbing the place where her husband struck her long enough to ridicule an 'old maid'."

Making Jokes at Expense of Farmer Amusing

By C. T. CROFTON Sevens, Mass.

Making jokes at the expense of the farmer may appear amusing, but, after all, the countryman has the cleverest of them "backed up an alley" when it comes to genuine fun, an easy living and a good strong bank roll.

The farmer happens just now to be in position to enjoy the fun immensely, for is it not he who is producing the 40-cent bacon and butter that the city man buys? The city people may be able to trim Uncle Hiram when he comes to town, but let them come out to the tall grass and he will "put one over" on them, "by crickey."