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THE WATCH.

My watch wouldn't work worth a dime, it was always a fortnight too slow; instead of recording the time, it monkeyed around, and fro. The mainspring seemed out of repair, it traveled by spasms and jerks: so I sat me right down in a chair, and studied the watch and its works. I took it apart with a wrench, and studied the levers and gears, all piled in a heap on a bench: I studied and wiggled my ears. I put the wheels back in the case, and shook them to give them a shock; but the hands didn't go round the face, and the works didn't tick nor yet tick. I asked of the plumber advice, and counsel I asked of the judge, consulted the dealer in ice—and still the blamed works wouldn't budge. "Methinks," I remarked, "and I wist, I must go to the jeweler's shop." He gave it three twists of the wrist, and the watch went along like a top. That plan's kept me down in the past—a plan that in doubtless the worst; I always reserve till the last the thing I should tackle at first.

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WEATHER PROPHETS.

In issuing an official statement denouncing long-range weather forecasting based on lunar, planetary, magnetic and astrological considerations, the department of agriculture takes a step for which there should be no necessity. It seems strange that farmers and others who are vitally interested in the weather should place credence in any system not approved by the weather bureau of the department of agriculture. The bureau has cost the country millions of dollars, it has employed the best methods and men to be obtained, and it has experimented with every suggested system of weather forecasting devised either by amateurs or scientists. It has settled on the present system not because it is easy, but because it comes nearest giving satisfactory results.

The particular system against which the department has issued a warning consists in forecasting the weather by reference to spots on the sun. The sun, being quite remote from the earth and, no doubt, defenseless, cannot protect itself from the quacks who attempt to exploit its prophetic properties. But since the department is greatly indebted to the sun for its numerous kindly deeds, it is only natural that it should come to its defense. This is about all the thing amounts to. The official weather forecasters employed by the government for the express purpose of telling what is going to happen next have no doubt spent many an hour looking to the sun for just such information. They have not found it. The quacks have.

Those interested in the weather—and who is not?—have only to choose between their own highly paid experts, who know so much that in the interest of truth they must qualify their forecasts, and the quacks who know so little that they can be positive in their guesses, knowing that if they make a mistake they are not likely to lose their jobs for the very good reason that they have none. This faith in quacks probably arises from a popular belief that the weather bureau guesses wrong pretty often. And this in turn is based on the belief that the weather forecaster is in a position similar to that of the chemists, working with known factors. As a matter of fact, the weather forecaster may more truthfully be likened to a blindfolded chemist working in a strange laboratory. And the fault is not the forecaster's, but rather the limited development of his science.

EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH.

That the long battle for education in the south more nearly in harmony with that developed in northern states is being slowly but surely won by the advocates of more thorough and compulsory education is evident from the annual reports of Rockefeller's general education board. The latest report, just issued, shows that Tennessee led during the last year. Her schools have been neglected, according to northern standards, for many years, but she has not the leader among her neighbors in the total increase in educational facilities, her proportionate increase was larger.

The official figures show that last year Kentucky opened new high school buildings costing \$495,000; Mississippi, \$410,000; Alabama, \$303,750; Arkansas, \$355,000, and Tennessee, \$154,500. The two-year school, providing a few months of higher schooling for those who have completed the grade school, is becoming popular. Thirty-two of these schools were opened in Arkansas last year, while only one new four-year school was opened. It seems likely that eventually the two-year schools will be converted into four-year standard high schools. This illustrates the caution exhibited by some states in their approach to higher education. They believe, and rightly, that the high schools should come in response to a demand, but at the same time they are willing to stimulate the demand.

The placing of the negro schools in several states under the direction of a separate superintendent, charged with the duty of fitting negro schools to negro needs, marks another noteworthy advance of the year. Northern money from private sources is doing much to pave the way for this plan, but the states have shown their interest, and there can be little doubt that once the efficacy of the system is established the financial burden will be carried by the states. They cannot, in justice to their economic development, neglect any plan which makes for the betterment of the negro. But the light must be shown to them, and that is a duty which the north should keep ever in mind.

Kidnaped by MRS. EVA LEONARD

NELL MORTON HAS A THEORY AS TO THE BABY'S DISAPPEARANCE.

"I can't understand it. It seems as if the earth had opened and swallowed her up. We have driven over fifteen miles down this road and called at every house and questioned every one we have met and no one has seen her."



Olive was wiping the tears from her eyes as she spoke. The strain of the afternoon had been too much for her, coming as it had after three days of terrible excitement following the mysterious disappearance of the baby.

"The only possible explanation is that she got another chance to ride and so was carried along the road without anyone seeing her." The doctor's cheerful tone of the early afternoon was all gone and a settled despair had taken its place. He realized, however, that he must furnish the courage for himself and Olive, for she was on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

"Olive, have you any theory as to who the woman could be?" asked Nell in low tones that the doctor, on the front seat of the machine might not hear.

"No; have you?" Olive took the handkerchief from her eyes to look at her friend.

"I have been wondering if it might not be the first Mrs. Ellison," whispered Nell.

"Why, she's dead!" exclaimed Olive in a startled whisper.

"There was no proof of that. She simply disappeared. The theory was that she was drowned, but the stream was dragged and no sign of her was found." Nell glanced in the doctor's direction and put her finger on her lips.

"Where could she keep herself all this time, it is so long since she went away?" Olive put her lips close to Nell's ear to ask the question.

"You know I always thought she was insane. Her stealing into your room at night and trying to frighten you out of marrying the doctor was not the work of a sane woman."

A shudder ran through Olive's frame. "My poor baby in the hands of an insane woman," she moaned. "She'll kill it."

"She could easily have done that by strangling it in its sleep with far less trouble, so that need not worry you, and the man who told you about giving her a ride said she seemed very devoted to the little thing. Didn't he say that?" Nell was trying to quiet the poor distracted mother.

"What could she live on all this time? She had not much money and as the doctor did not know her whereabouts, of course he could not pay the alimony," said Olive after a pause.

Dinner Stories.

A good story is recalled of ex-President Roosevelt's school days. He was once requested to recite a poem beginning:

At midnight in his guarded tent, The Turk lay dreaming of the hour When Greece, her knee in supplication,

Should tremble at his power. He only got as far as the third line when he began to hesitate. Twice he repeated "Greece, her knee," and then stopped dead.

The old professor beamed on him over his glasses, and then dryly remarked:

"Greece her knee once more, Theodore. Perhaps she'll go easier then."

The applicant for chauffeur interviewed Mrs. Newrich.

"We call our servants by their last names," she said. "What's your name?"

"You had best call me Thomas, ma'am," replied the applicant.

"No, we insist that you be willing to be called by your last name." Otherwise you won't do at all."

The chauffeur said that he was willing to be called by his last name, but didn't think the family would like to use it.

"What is your last name, then?" said his prospective employer, somewhat coldly, as though she expected a revelation of international scandal.

"Darling, ma'am, Thomas Darling."

A HEAVY BURDEN

A Bad Back Makes Life Miserable For Many Boise People.

A bad back is a heavy burden. A burden at night when bedtime comes.

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Mrs. George W. Leppert, 512 S. Third St., Boise, says: "Doan's Kidney Pills have done a world of good in our family in curing a bad attack of kidney trouble and a sore and lame back from which one of the family suffered a great deal. Doan's Kidney Pills, which we got at Charles L. Joy & Co.'s Drug Store, also did me a great deal of good when I was suffering in a similar way. Neither of us have had a sign of kidney trouble for over two years and we give Doan's Kidney Pills the credit for curing us."

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Best by test HIAWATHA COAL, phone 323. Lump \$7.50, stove \$7. 12

DAILY LESSON IN HISTORY.

One Hundred Years Ago Today.

1816 — Dr. Benjamin W. Dwight, noted Congregational clergyman and educator, born at New Haven, Conn. Died at Clinton, N. Y., in 1889.

Seventy-five Years Ago Today.

1841—Nearly one-quarter of the town of Antigua, in the island of Antigua, West Indies, was destroyed by fire.

Fifty Years Ago Today.

1866—As a result of vigorous protests from the United States, official announcement was made by France of her intention to withdraw the French troops from Mexico.

Twenty-five Years Ago Today.

1891—The miners of Belgium declared in favor of a general strike unless the government consented to the popular demand for universal suffrage.

Rowena circle No. 27 will meet at the home of Mrs. Ethel Ballinger, 1218 Bannock street, Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock sharp. All members are urged to be present.

THE value of a bank connection is best cited by the fact that—every successful business person has one.

Build up your fund for independence at the

Pacific National Bank

Flower Show Opens in Gotham.

New York, April 5.—With all the bustle and confusion that usually accompanies the opening of a large exhibition, the annual international flower show was opened this afternoon in the Grand Central palace. The show is given under the joint auspices of the New York Florists' club and the Horticultural society of New York. In the number and variety of exhibits the show is far in excess of that of last year. The Far East has contributed to the display, while South Africa and Australia are among the exhibitors.

One Year Ago in the War.

April 5, 1915.—America's note manding right of seas for neutrals made public; America demanded reparation from Germany for sinking of the William P. Frye; British steamer Northlands torpedoed off Beachy Head, English Channel; German town of Warmbad, Africa, occupied by British; allies renewed attack on Smyrna.

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