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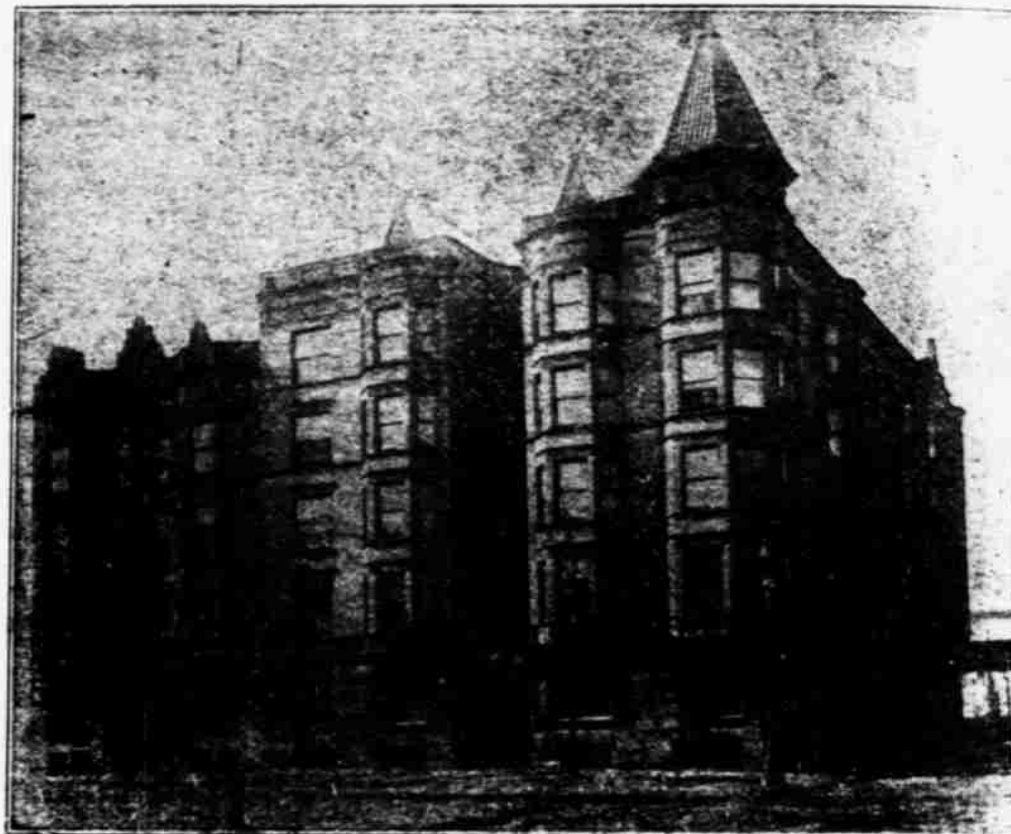
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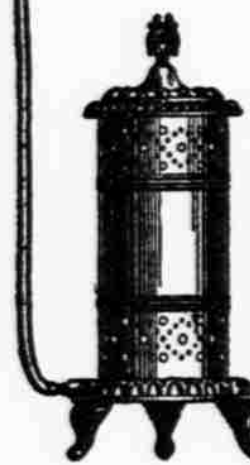
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Signing Diplomatic Notes.

No one can say exactly why our secretaries of state sign diplomatic communications with their surnames only, except that it has always been so. We copied the custom from European chancelleries, and it probably has its origin in the habit of royalty, which is to sign with one name only. Thus King George of England signs himself "George, R. I." (Rex, Emperor-King, Emperor); Sir Edward Grey signed always as "Grey;" the democratic Mr. Bryan when secretary of state affixed his signature to diplomatic notes as "Bryan." At first sight there seems to be a profound flattery implied in the custom. It assumes that the signer cannot be mistaken; that there is only one "George," and "Grey," one "Bryan." And generally there is only one in the diplomatic world where these exchanges take place.—New York Sun.

Effects of Arsenic.

"Arsenic, as science has long told us, is an accumulative poison," said a druggist. "When one takes it either by prescription for the upbuilding of an appetite or for the bleaching of the skin he does not feel any ill effects for several years. The effect of the drug is bracing and makes a person feel like eating. It also aids the digestion. The average user of the poison takes it in such small quantities that he does not realize how much of it will accumulate in his system in the course of four or five years.

"Being an accumulative poison, it often takes that length of time to see the results of the drug. Then the user may complain of not being able to control his fingers or toes. Subsequently he loses control of his hands and arms. Paralysis, superinduced by arsenical poisoning, is the fearful result."

Got There All Right.

Many years ago, at the beginning of November, a missive bearing the St. Albans postmark reached St. Martin's. The envelope was addressed "Jud mar lunding." Neither tail nor head could be made out of this by the staff, so the envelope was opened for a clew. The letter read, "kenyobiatuosfoyosho bill igs."

The practiced St. Martin's decipherer of puzzles promptly made out the signature as "Bill Higgs." With the key this afforded the rest was deliciously easy. The message was, "Can you buy a horse for your show?" and "Jud mar" meant "lord mayor." So the letter, with an official translation considerably appended, was delivered to the lord mayor elect.—London Mail.

Many Uses For Sawdust.

Sawdust is valuable. It can be used for almost anything except food. Used as an absorbent for nitroglycerin it produces dynamite. Used with clay and burned it produces a terra cotta brick full of small cavities that, owing to its lightness and its properties as a nonconductor, makes excellent fireproof material for walls or floors. Treating it with fused caustic alkali produces oxalic acid. Treating it with sulphuric acid and fermenting it with the sugar so formed produces alcohol. Mixed with a suitable binder and compressed it can be used for making moldings and imitation carvings. If mixed with portland cement it produces a flooring material.—Philadelphia Record.

Ivory In Siberia.

An enormous supply of ivory exists in the frozen tundras of Siberia, which, it is thought, will probably suffice for the world's consumption for many years to come. This ivory consists of the tusks of the extinct species of elephants called mammoths. The tusks of these animals were of great size and are wonderfully abundant at some places in Siberia, where the frost has perfectly preserved them.

Tree In a Chimney.

On the island of Trinidad is a lone brick chimney which once was part of a sugar mill long since gone to ruin. The chimney has remained intact, and a tree has grown up through the center and pushed its branches through the top.

Love.

At twenty love is a rosy dream, at thirty it is a thrilling reality, at forty it is a calm contentment, and at fifty it is a reminiscence.

Robber!

Tom—So you heard that Bill stole from his wife. Sam—Yep, he booked her dress.—Michigan Gargoyle.

Poor and content is rich and rich enough.—Shakespeare.

How Wood Shrinks.

Students in the college of forestry at the University of Washington have proved by experiment that a cord of full length wood when sawed and repled in the ordinary stack shrinks on an average 24.76 per cent. As dealers buy wood in full lengths and usually measure it for delivery before sawing it, they are often accused of giving short measure.

A "cord" is the standard measurement of wood, and it is defined as 128 cubic feet of wood, measured by a pile four feet high and eight feet wide of logs four feet long.

The discrepancy between the cord as bought by the dealer and as delivered to the customer, according to Professor Hugo Winkenwerder, dean of the college, is not entirely explained by the sawdust. When wood is piled up in four foot lengths there are many spaces between sticks, caused by knots and curvatures. These spaces are eliminated when the wood is cut up small.

Ancestry of Modern Dogs.

According to Charles R. Eastman, writing in the Museum Journal, our modern dogs have a varied ancestry, some being descended from Asiatic and some from African species. The spitz in all its varieties is a domesticated jackal. The mastiff and St. Bernard and their kind are descended through the molossus of the Romans from a huge, wolflike creature that was already domesticated by the Assyro-Babylonians 3,000 years before our era. The Russian borzoi and the Sicilian hound had their origin in the Cretan hound, which is still common in Crete, and it and its cousin, the Ibiza hound of the Balearic Islands, came from the ancient Ethiopian hound, which was a domesticated wolf. The collie or shepherd dog seems to come down direct from a small wild dog of the paleolithic period.

Here's a Tip About Hotel Guests.

In the American Magazine a writer says:

"Here's a funny thing, by the way, that I've noticed about hotel guests: You leave a soiled towel in a room and the guest will probably complain, but you can leave a bucket of paint and a paper hanger's scaffold in the hallway and compel the guest to crawl under a stepladder to get to his room and he will put up with it cheerfully, because he knows you are painting or papering by way of making an improvement and he is in sympathy with that. It doesn't cost much to make over a carpet so that a bare spot in front of the dresser will be eliminated, but such little details are a vast help in making a hotel prosper."

The "Only Child."

When parents have an "only child" it seems to get as much attention as six or eight children in a large family. Some statistics show that out of a hundred "only children" eighty-seven were nervous, the girls suffering worse than the boys. And then the statisticians say the only child lacks self reliance, is precocious, vain and unsociable, is often extremely timid, being afraid of dark rooms and of sleeping alone.—Exchange.

It's an Ill Wind.

"Rejected you, did she, old man?"
"Yes."
"Too bad! No doubt you had planned to buy her a ring and all that?"
"Yes."
"Had your money all saved up, eh?"
"I should say so. Had \$50 all ready."
"I say, old man, you—er—couldn't lend me that \$50 till you find some other girl who will have you, could you?"
—Boston Transcript.

Worse Still.

"Does your father ever comment on my staying so late at night?"
"No, Algernon."
"That's good."
"But he sometimes makes sarcastic remarks about your staying so early in the morning."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Cause and Effect.

She—So you danced with Miss Lightfoot at the ball last night? He—Yes. Did she tell you? She—Oh, no. But I saw her going into a chiropodist's this morning.

Mosquito Netting.

Mosquito netting is an ancient Greek if not Egyptian invention, even if it does seem a Yankee idea.

It is easier for the generous to forgive than for the offense to ask it.—Thomson.

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