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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be preached before Friday noon of each week. The editor is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of his paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The following "Do" and "Don't" warnings are broadcast today by Fire Chief William G. Olsen as Birmingham enters into its part in the National Fire Prevention Week. They are worthy of the most sincere consideration.

Carelessness causes most fires.

Every fifteen minutes someone's home catches fire.

Fifteen thousand burn to death each year in America.

Help prevent fire! Be careful!

As the days grow cooler, and fires are necessary in stoves, fireplaces and furnaces for comfort, the danger of losses increases. It is important, therefore, that flues should be examined, cleaned, and repaired where necessary.

Not all losses of property and lives, by any means, are caused by defective flues. A frequent source of danger is rubbish collected in basements or in and around buildings. A general cleanup is an effective method of fire prevention.

Seventy-one lives and over $1,000,000 worth of property was destroyed every minute, and a life was lost every 35 minutes last year through fires. Thirty million dollars in losses were caused by careless smokers. It should be remembered that there is always danger in the discarded cigaret or cigar stub.

Keep matches in metal boxes where children cannot reach them.

Don't keep ashes in wooden boxes or deposit them against wooden buildings or partitions.

Don't change your electric wiring without consulting a competent electrician.

Don't hang electric light cords on nails.

Use metal protection under all stoves and protect woodwork where stoves or furnaces are close to walls.

Don't pass stove pipes through ceiling, roofs or wooden partitions.

Every open fireplace should have a screen.

Don't use gasoline or benzine to cleanse clothing near an open flame, light or fire.

Don't use kerosene, benzine or naptha in lighting fires or to quicken a slow fire.

Don't use liquid polishes near open lights. Many such compounds contain inflammable oils.

Don't go into closets with lighted matches or candles.

It is evident that favorable action upon the suggestions by the general public would greatly decrease fire losses the coming year.

DETROIT'S NEW ART MUSEUM

Detroit, Fourth City of the United States, first in the world's production of automobiles, fastest growing community on earth, in fact biggest and best in anything and everything of a strictly material nature, has joined the ranks of aesthetic loving communities and last week opened a beautiful Art Museum. It is the capping climax of Detroit's proof to a somewhat critical and cynical world that the land of Cadillac possesses a soul; it is undeniable evidence to an envious world that our neighboring Fourth City—even though it may display a large cash register in the ante-room—does provide for a flower conservatory in its municipal dwelling, so that its occupants may grow mentally and spiritually when turning from labor to refreshment.

Detroit is to be congratulated upon the opening of its fine Art Museum. Especial commendation ought to go to the mere handful of its citizens who, over a long period of years, worked for the realization of their Art Museum dream.

Less than five millions of dollars, they say, built this splendid monument of marble—a refreshing sight for those who pass or enter its wide portals on Woodward avenue; according to current statistics, four or five similar Art Museums could be constructed for less than the cost of a modern battleship—a pitiful commentary on the toll that mankind pays for savagery as against the development of its aesthetic capacities.

Speed on, Detroit! As the famous poet, Oliver Wendell Holmes, once declared in his Chambered Nautilus:

"Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift season roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!"

New York specialist says a woman's refusal to talk is a sign of insanity. Fortunately, such cases are rare.

Lunatics publish a paper at an asylum in Humberstone, England. There may be others.

Each day's weather is the same on the moon, so there would be nothing to talk about, even if it were inhabited.

A hotel owners' association will take drastic steps to prevent guests being robbed by transient crooks. Proprietors must protect their rights.

It takes 190 million collars a year to furnish the fancy food for our laundry machinery.

A Dream

An old man and a little boy,
Two people in a far off land,
I see them walking hand in hand,
Each face alight with wondrous joy.

I know the old man's heart is glad,
So calm and peaceful is his face,
As on they go at leisure pace,
He and the tiny little lad.

And now, they pause to rest awhile
Beneath a leafy flowering tree.
He takes the child upon his knee,
His face lit with a tender smile.

A fence of gold I can not pass
Divides us. This is heaven's gate
And I must stand outside to wait
Until they come this way. Alas!

I wish my eyes were not so dim,
So I might know this happy pair,
And find out why they linger there
To wander just at heaven's rim.

My heart is beating fast with joy,
For they are coming closer now,
That little form, that furrowed brow!
Grandfather and my baby boy!

—BEATRICE McDONALD.

WELCOME, REV. WOODWARD

Welcome to Birmingham, Reverend and Mrs. D. L. Woodward, you twain who will preside over the current destiny of the First Baptist Church here! This community, deeply mindful of its spiritual necessities, awaits the good that you may accomplish for it in the name of Jesus Christ.

Here you will find a friendly town, well represented by institutions that are dedicated to the enlightenment of mankind. Here you will find people making their little journeys from the cradle to the grave, each intent upon living life to its fullest attainments; they require the material things of life, of course, and most of them enjoy such privileges. They also express a real desire for methods of developing their mental and spiritual capacities, and they contribute heavily to the schools, churches, and other instruments of education.

Like the citizens of other concentrated social centers, they are hungry for the things that you preacher men can give them. Your capacity to do good through your ministry is as undefinable and immeasurable as the milky way; how many lives you will touch and make better you do not, and never can; know exactly. And that is one of the thrills that undoubtedly accompanies any ministry of good to people.

Here we are, you two good Samaritans. We in Birmingham and vicinity are going to like you a lot—and we hope that you'll like us in return. May your stay here be happy, long, and profitable to you and the community.

JOHN C. LODGE'S VICTORY

Election returns from Detroit show that John C. Lodge, personal representative of those fine civic ideals that spell right progress, won a majority of all the votes cast at the mayoralty primary Tuesday. Such a vote, showing as it does the actual desires of a majority of the Detroiters who voted, must necessarily upset the gloomy statements of some people that "Detroit is going to the bow-wows." Detroit will never go to the land of the doggie as long as its representative citizenry has access to the voting booth.

Lodge's success at the Tuesday primary is a happy prospect to consider when guessing at what will happen at the general election November 8. We hope that the citizens of Detroit will elect Mr. Lodge mayor next month. Mr. Lodge's character will go hand in hand with its fine new Art Museum, its Public Library; and all the other splendid institutions (including the characters of its good citizens) that have been builded within the city of Detroit.

If Detroit elects John C. Lodge mayor November 8, it can shout its fine civic victory to the entire world.

HE COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT

The inanimate (though never static) clay of Russell Scott, who hanged himself in a Chicago cell the other day, was brought to the convicted slayer's former home in Windsor Tuesday; it was shipped in a plain pine box, and attracted little attention as it reached its destination.

The world at large, of course, is slightly interested in Russell Scott; at one time part of it admired him when he planned to span the Detroit River with a bridge, and then, again, when he tried to outwit the law in banditry his name was stretched across the tops of daily newspapers. Russell Scott, once a sweet, promising baby, then a happy youth, like all who travel upon this earth, must have meant much to some people.

No doubt his parents held the fondest thoughts of all regarding their son's future. To his other relatives, and to the many friends and acquaintances which he acquired, he must have meant something. In those sweet days, though, his name was never flashed in large type in the newspapers; he was the more or less average human being—much to a few people, a little to a few more, a trifle to another handful, and oblivion to the rest of the world.

From the standpoint of pure physics, or biology, Russell Scott was made up of just about the same 98 cents worth of chemicals that all of us receive as a mature inheritance; and therein lies the thing that makes for individuality in people—why did Russel Scott become a suicide and a slayer? And why did Washington become the sacrificing Father of his Country? There is plenty of room for argument here, we will admit. Our own belief on this score is, however, very simple; the only reason that Scott ended up where he did is because he paid more attention to his physical and biological requirements than he did to his mental and spiritual capacities.

Some may say: well, how could he help himself? It was all intended that way, anyway, so why worry? And those who make such inquiries are, in our humble estimation, merely mixing up their applesauce with much rhubarb.

No one need be a Russell Scott if he is wholesome, decent, clean-minded, and a respecter of not only society-at-large, but majorly of HIS OWN CHARACTER!

The Time Has Come!

The Other Chap Says Something

YOUTH AND OMNISCIENCE

Samuel Hopkins Adams, the author who shoveled upon the country one of last year's choicest loads of literary "dirt" in his volume "Revelry," has been oracularly discoursing on the subject "Youth." He says:

"We have educated the modern generation so that a boy of today knows more than his father. Small wonder that today, youth, knowing that it knows more than the 'old man,' thinks itself capable with this greater knowledge to pilot itself through life. The student of today can no longer be terrorized by religion into doing right after he has taken a course in comparative religions, or be frightened by theorys of a deity after he has studied biology, or be commanded to adjust himself to standards of authority after he has looked through telescopes and microscopes and has been taught to make everything answerable to his own reason. We live in a brand-new world. We must have new standards. We won't get them from parents who think in terms of a century that is gone and will never come back."

Like many other scholastically educated men, Mr. Adams is addicted to the supersition that all knowledge is to be found between the covers of books. Because of this delusion, his sweeping generality indicates a belief that the boy or girl of today who has passed through the process of academic education, would be equipped to instruct a George Washington, a Benjamin Franklin or an Abraham Lincoln in matters of fundamental belief and conduct. For these men have been dead many years, and never had the advantage of that cross-cut to omniscience which Mr. Adams finds in modern education.

We do not live in a "brand new world," though the delusion is cherished by many visionaries that mechanical changes, and the sprouting of new theories concerning the fundamentals of human life, are accompanied by similar revolutionary changes in the nature of men. Nor does the mere accumulation of knowledge ensure wisdom; otherwise civilizations which in the past have risen to a high point would not have fallen into decay.

There were better spellers than Washington during the Revolutionary period, and there were many scholarly men who resented Lincoln's sudden promotion to the chief magistracy during a great crisis. These two men taught the world, however, that not all wisdom comes from books. There are many illiterate men today whose counsel would be worth more in a human crisis than that of some people with university degrees.

There is no greater pest or menace than the immature smartaleck without respect for those lessons of experience which come only by contact with men and affairs. It is in this crucible that all knowledge and pseudo-knowledge acquired from books must be tried. Most men of mature years remember the period when they believed they knew it all. Usually this is the sophomore period. It persists, however, in boys and girls who never grow up, and by them is preached to the new generation.

Standards of conduct which are a part of our civilization have more basis than mere religious and scientific authority. They represent what the world has learned in centuries of trial as to the results, personal and social, of deviation from fundamental codes of conduct. The Leopolds and Loebs may know more about telescopes and microscopes, Nietzche, and Freud, than did their fathers, but their fathers are not in the penitentiary for life.—National Republic Magazine.

Selling Themselves Cheap

The other day we saw a man beating a bill. He owed something over four dollars and deliberately refused to pay it. The amount was too small for the creditor to sue. In looking over the list put out by a collection agency we find there are many people in every community who owe small amounts that they could pay and do not.

Call any one of these bill beaters a liar and he will fight. Tell him he is a crook and you insult the honor of his family. Call him a man without character and you make an enemy for life.

There are hundreds of people in any county or large city who will sell their reputation, which is the public conception of character, for a five dollar bill or less. It would surprise you how many there are who would deny reflection on their honor and yet sell their reputation for honesty for a few dollars.

Money is not the yardstick by which men are measured. Sometimes it is. The man who beats a bill, who cheats for the sake of a few dollars, is the man who is too small to be trusted with anything beyond a few dollars.

Some people have no respect for themselves.—Tuscola County (Mich.) Advertiser.

A Few Thought About The Printed Page

If the average newspaper printed one-hundredth part of the stuff that is told by word of mouth on the street and over the backyard fence at places where men and women congregate, the race of newspaper men and women would soon perish from the earth, for the world war was started on a much less provocation than has often been given by some loose tongued, though well meaning male or female. All of us repeat things we know are not true; many otherwise splendid men and women are afflicted with the habit of talking too much. It's a mighty lucky thing for the newspapers that the light of truth is turned on every written word before it goes to the compositor, for any paper, large or small, could raise more disturbance in one issue than all the rest of the people in that town could quiet down in a decade.—Imlay City Times.

Prizefighting

We have no quarrel with anyone who prefers Mr. Dempsey as a fighter or a gentleman, to Mr. Tunney. As a general proposition, however, it can be stated with accuracy that people in selecting heroes or friends are unconsciously attracted to persons whose mental and moral standards reflect their own personal ideals of these values. Emerson furnishes a perfect illustration of this truth in one of his essays when he says,

"Introduce a base person among gentlemen: it is all to no purpose; he is not their fellow. Every society protects itself. The company is perfectly safe and he is not one of them, though his body is in the room."

With this brief explanation we are perfectly willing to continue in the Tunney group of supporters where Mr. Searles classification heaves us, literally if not actually.

One thing about the big championship fights is the absolute democracy of these events. It is just possible the tremendous interest in these contests is explainded somewhat by this paragraph from the story by James R. Harrison of the New York Times staff.

"Governors and Mayors and United States Senators and millionaires lent the right tone to the occasion and millions listened to the story of the fight as it went "on the air."

The "right tone" to the occasion. Isn't that the bla? For example, we were interested in a paragraph story from Joe Haas' always interesting port side column in the Holly Herald, which is as follows:

Holly's Delegation At Big Fight

When you're at the Dempsey-Tunney fight in Chicago on Thursday evening of this week, don't let that display of newspaper men and other monied interests in the front row dazzle you. Just take a slant over at seat 43 in the 13th row of section 26. No, that isn't the Prince of Wales, nor Al Smith; it's just John Price, who accompanies Holly's delegation at the big doings.

His ticket cost $30.

So far as we are concerned John Price got the same sporting classification as any of the other customers. Their presence indicates the same grade of interest and the space required to bark them is exactly the same regardless of price. Fame is purely a relative matter and once inside the big field governors, mayors and United States senators are of no more importance in the scheme of things than deputy sheriffs, constables and speed cops. So why bring that up? Beyond all this temporal fame all this outfit from the "right tone" boys down to plain John Price of Holly, Michigan,

" " shall wither, and the whirl-wind shall take them away as stubble.—Murl H. De Foe in Charlotte, (Mich.) Republican.

OUR GOVERNMENT

Neither our National nor our State Governments are planned or equipped for the task of Government operation of utilities. The fathers purposely made our government to a different model, for a different task. They divided power and responsibility, where business must concentrate them. They thought liberty and individual rights were worth safeguarding.

This very fact leaves to private enterprise many things which other nations can, if they prefer do through government—after a fashion. On the governmental side the result has been one of which we are as proud as other peoples are envious. On the business side the accomplishment far surpasses anything they know. Through the one we have liberty; through the other, enterprise and decisiveness.

Our form of government, which we have developed over 150 years, has assured us a measure of freedom and progress hitherto unparalleled in political history. The more we cherish it the less ready we should be to load it with a burden for which it was not built. To bear this load the Constitution would need to be rewritten in a score of places, until it was no longer our democracy. Above all, it would change the major thought and purpose of our government into the making of money instead of devotion to the preservation of basic human liberties — a big enough job in these times.—Herbert Hoover.

Before the Japanese Emperor visited the island of Oshima recently, 2,000 men were detailed to clear the place of poisonous snakes.

Phone your news items to the Eccentric, Phone 11 or 12.

Pontiac

Many of Detroit's successful merchants are buying and improving Pontiac business property because they see another profitable market in this G. M. C. industrial center. No city is growing in greater strides.

COLGROVE, BUCK & TILLOTSON
Successors to
Saunders Colgrove Buck
Phone 830 or 1185
FIRST STATE BANK BLDG.
Birmingham
REALTORS

Diet and Health

By LULU HUNT PETERS, M. D.
Author of "Diet and Health" and "Diet for Children"

Answers to Correspondents
Colds and Diet

"I have been bothered with colds and catarrh. What is the best diet to counteract these? I noticed benefit from orange juice fast.—E."

There is no particular diet for colds and catarrh, E., other than the balanced diet. And that means one that has all of the elements in proper proportions for proper functioning. It has been proved by animal experimentation, and clinically, that a wrong diet, especially one deficient in vitamins, lowers the resistance of all of the tissues of the body, and the mucous membranes are, of course included. (It must be remembered that the other factors of the diet are just as important as the vitamins.)

The fact that you benefitted by an orange juice diet might indicate that you had been having a diet deficient in vitamins, for orange juice is especially high in vitamin B., the antineuritic vitamin. Or, it may be possible that you've been overeating.

There are other factors that you have to consider in chronic colds and catarrh—possible malformations in the nose, lack of fresh air, irritating vapors (too much smoking, for instance), etc.

I suggest you have not only a physical examination, but a special examination of your nose and throat. We have an article which has something on colds, catarrh, hay fever, etc., which may help you. Enclose a fully self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request. (Ask also for our article on Balanced Diet.)

Orange Juice Hard on the Kidneys?

E. continues: "Since my orange juice fast, I've had a great deal of trouble with my back. Is orange juice hard on the kidneys? I do not drink coffee as a rule, however, I do love it once in a while. Do you consider it detrimental to the kidneys if used only occasionally?"

No, orange juice is not hard upon the kidneys, nor anything else, E., and it can be taken freely—except, possibly, in very irritable stomachs, when fruit acids are not received well for a while. Orange juice, while acid to the taste, leaves a final alkaline reaction in the body, and as the tissue fluids and blood are normally faintly alkaline, a preponderance of the alkaline foods should be eaten. (The alkaline foods are: fruits, with the exception of prunes, plums and cranberries; vegetables, except rhubarb and sorrel, and milk.

It's an old idea, hard to eradicate, that a pain in the back means something wrong with the kidneys. A pain in the back is practically never due to kidney disease. Because backache is a very common symptom, every quack who has something to sell exploits this falsehood.

Coffee apparently is not harmful to the majority, if taken in moderation, although a cup of strong coffee contains two to four grains of caffeine. (Caffeine is a stimulant and a medicinal dose is two grains.) Coffee and tea do undoubtedly cause insomnia frequently, and many are improved by their elimination. There are two or three brands of decaffeinized coffee on the market. Personally, I don't notice any difference in the taste.

As I told you before, you should have a thorough physical examination.

If you are interested in the subject, we have an article on the diet in kidney inflammation. Send only a self-addressed, stamped envelope with request.

* * *

Mrs. B.—We have an article on the Hygiene of Women which you may have by sending a fully self-addressed, stamped envelope with request.

Khe, Siberia, a village 400 miles north of the Arctic Circle, has the most northerly situated schoolhouse in the world.

QUAKES AT PLAY WITH PIRATE ISLE

Sea captains cruising along the coast of China not very long ago reported that an island between Manila and Hongkong where there had formerly been only blue water a tiny islet had suddenly appeared. Gradually it became covered with tropical vegetation and achieved a place on the charts. Now, as suddenly, it has disappeared. Thrown up by a Japanese earthquake, it was drawn back into the sea again by another. While it was there it existed as a domain without a flag and with out a name—though for a time it was not uninhabited.

To great Catwick Island, which lay eight or nine miles distant from the green islet, came Mala Dahlak and the piratic crew of his storm-battered junk. Half Chinese and half Malay, Dahlak terrorized Great Catwickians as long as he remained. At intervals the captain and his corsairs would hurry aboard the junk and put to sea. They would return from these expeditions with bales of silk luxuries of the larded and cases of fine wine. Sometimes they brought back captive women. But nobody on Great Catwick dared to interfere with the swaggering, hybrid freebooter, much less report him to the authorities.

One night the junk and all the pirates stole away silehtly, leaving the women behind. For several weeks peace reigned on Great Catwick. Then one day the pirates swept down upon it again. They seized food, drink and household goods, as well as the best-looking young women. One or two men who ventured to defend their wives and daughters or their property were killed, and Dahlak sailed off with his plunder. He never returned, but Chinese skippers reported that the vulcanic islet was occupied.

On the solitary islet Dahlak reigned as king, with his crew as subjects. The captive women were his slaves. He would sit upon a rude throne, a crown on his head, with women at either side to fan him.

The following entry from the records of the United States Hydrographic Survey describes the end of Dahlak's little kingdom:

"Further information has been received that on March 25 a volcanic island previously reported as being ninety-seven feet high, formerly located about eight and three-quarter miles northeast of Round (Great Catwick) Island, has disappeared and that the last depth in the vicinity was twenty-five fathoms. This islet is to be removed from the chart, but the danger line is to be retained. Approximate longitude 10 degrees 10 minutes north, 109 degrees east."

LIKELY GUESS

They were climbing a lofty peak of the Alps, and she was standing a few feet above him. She turned around and gazed in wonderment. "Reuben," she said, "do you see?"

"Far, far below," she cried, "I see a long, white sheet streching like a paper-ribbon almost back to our hotel." "Ha, ha!" he ejaculated. "It's that hotel bill overtaking us."

HERS AT LAST

"My dear," said the old man, tenderly, "today is our diamond wedding, and I have a little surprise for you!"

"Yes?" said the silver-haired wife.

He took her hand in his. "You see this engagement ring I gave you 76 years ago?"

"Yes!" said the expectant old lady.

"Well, I paid the final instalment on it today, and I am proud to announce that it is now altogether yours!"

According to Judge Fenny of Los Angeles, persons having their faces lifted or otherwise re-vamped do so at their own risk. He threw out of court a suit for damages brought by a movie actor against a surgeon for running the appearance of his nose.