

The Quiet Observer

Dry Weather, Hard Plowing

Dry weather made hard plowing in September, but towards the end of the month the weather broke. The fine weather was favorable for fruit, some thought too favorable. Peaches were given away in many quarters and apples were a drug. This was chiefly for lack of labor and scarcity of containers. The high price of sugar spoiled the market for that commodity, though reductions began to be made when it was seen to be too late. People are learning to do without. They were compelled during the war, and now it is voluntary. Cattle marketing is said to be slow, and fear is expressed that too much veal has been sold. The fall wheat that was sown early looks very promising, but the later sowings have not had enough moisture to make progress. Flax has been a tremendous crop and insures big returns.

Costly Ships, High Freight

When the United States Congress discovered that its shipping tonnage was becoming the greatest in the world it decided to adopt measures which would, as was believed, secure all the freight of the ocean for United States vessels. It passed an act calling on the President to denounce all the treaties with other nations that would interfere with the new program of favoring the very way by charges, by tariffs and otherwise, such U. S. shipping. President Wilson has accepted the Act insofar as it provides for domestic measures, but he has declined to interfere with the treaties which are outside the jurisdiction of Congress. But it is a huge task to fight the whole world, and the United States finds that it is no more possible to monopolize shipping than Kaiser Wilhelm found it possible to monopolize power. Actual costs of ship-building enter into the rates eventually charged for freight, and as British vessels cost \$100 a ton and United States vessels up to \$400 the cheaper vessel eventually gets the freight. A ship-building firm in Toronto recently ceased operations because the high rate of wages demanded rendered it impossible to build ships at a competing price. In competition with the whole world many things have to be considered besides the national boundary line. That is why co-operation may be found advantageous.

The New Bankruptcy Act

It appears that the new Bankruptcy Act does not commend itself to the lawyers as much as it does to the portion of the public who feel that some time they may stand in need of it. Lawyers are more familiar with the old Winding-Up Act which is still allowed to be used, and the fees under the old Act are more lucrative than those of the new. The new Act makes it much easier for an honest debtor to get his discharge and correspondingly it increases the difficulties for a fraudulent one. Provision is also made against any possible dishonesty on the part of a trustee or assignee. None but an authorized and therefore fully-qualified trustee has authority to act under the new legislation. Only a very few have so far availed themselves of it and some officials have expressed doubt of its practicability.

Weak Will and Low Morality

Whatever may be thought of Prohibition and the O. T. A., by those who have been unable to convince themselves that free traffic in alcohol and its dilutions is undesirable, those who are concerned with the social effect have no doubt about the excellent results of the restrictive legislation. The physique and stamina of those who formerly were subjected to alcoholic influence have been immensely benefited, and it has been noted that confirmed drunkards have almost disappeared. In another direction the effect is to raise the standard of intelligence among those formerly besotted with liquor. It must not be supposed that the moral standard necessarily rises in a community where the intellectual forces are thus set free. A fairly high morality is quite consistent with the moderate consumption of liquor. The highest morality always involves an absolute measure of self-restraint. The disappearance of the drunkard would, therefore, presuppose a rise in moral standards, other things being equal. But this is not always a possible condition. There are other channels of self-indulgence, and self-indulgence of any description weakens the will, and consequently lowers the moral standard, by giving the desires and passions a dominant influence. The whole problem of morality turns on the strength of the will coupled with the aims or ideals the individual has in view. He may have high aims and from weakness of will be unable to concentrate on their realization. Freed from influences that weaken his will he may very quickly exhibit elevation of character. Any habit, therefore, whether liquor, tobacco, or any other drug, that tends to weaken the will, so that the individual is unable to resist the appetite, is merely a symptom of the general moral weakness which would prevent the resistance of the individual under temptation. Until this is understood we are likely to concern ourselves with the symptoms rather than the disease itself. Temperate habits, a satisfactory environment, new objectives in life, steady work, are factors that soon root out bad habits, strengthen the will and establish a higher standard of moral purpose.

Our Voluntary Empire

Viscount Cave's last speech in Canada was given to the Empire Club of Toronto on "The Meaning of Empire Today." His own point of view, he said, was one of sympathy with the old philosopher on whose tomb was in-

scribed, "I died learning." Some people haggled at the word Empire. The Spaniards sent their legions and the plunder and exploit; Austria and Napoleon had thrust at power; and the Second, forsaking the old spirit centred at Weimar, sought a parvenu Empire for World-power, or men and striking for self-styled super-Dowfall, found—one of them. Lord Cave commended Seely's "Expansion of England" as an exposition of British growth. Territory had been acquired in war, but war had not been for that purpose. The acquisition of Cape Colony, for example, was an incident of the war with the Dutch. Britons were great Colonists. At the end of the Great War the call everywhere for the British soldier to make settlements. He did his work efficiently with good temper, and wanted nothing for himself but to get home again as fast as he could. It was absurd to speak of Great Britain owning Australia or any of the Sister nations of the Empire. In South Africa those who were the chief and most efficient opponents of Great Britain now held the highest offices in the territory where that war was waged. The greater the autonomy, the greater the loyalty. This constellation of nations in union was what was called the British Empire. Lord Cave spoke of the Imperial Conference, and hoped that what had been the Imperial War Cabinet would be in the Imperial War Cabinet in the Empire might meet for mutual information and advice, remaining free as to action. He hoped to be forgiven as an Englishman for saying that at this time and until Canada hurried up to be in the Old Country where population was densest. To weaken the links that bound the Dominions together would indeed be a tragedy to the race. In 1920 the British Empire meant not conquest nor possession. Its foundation was the spirit of sturdy independence coupled with fair consideration for others, and liberty.

Labor Versus the Soviet

President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, has taken occasion once more to repudiate any idea of sympathy between the five million men of his organization and the revolutionary aims of the Soviet party in Russia. He recognizes that "The International Federation of Trades Unions takes a position of anarchistic hostility to all governments without discrimination." Moreover, in view of recent developments in England, which the threatened strike brought out, Mr. Gompers declared: "The British Labor party also turns its back on the democratic parliament system which England has evolved by seven centuries of struggle." This appears to be inspired by the payment of Russian gold to The London Herald, which was afterwards said not to have been recognized by the Labor party, the gold being returned. But the association left a taint of which Mr. Gompers is quick to wash his hands. He has no use for the Soviet in any shape or form. Such action as was contemplated in the British coal strike simply meant the decay of more or less rapid, of British supremacy. No more vital blow could be given her industries, her shipping, her national being, than a suspension of coal deliveries upon which the industry of the British Islands mainly depends.

Well Meant, Ill Timed

Efforts to create friendly feeling between the English-speaking peoples of the world, when directed towards the United States are translated there by Irish and Germans of the baser sort into a "secret" conspiracy to bring the United States into the British Empire. Those who are familiar with the school training, the Fourth of July traditions, and the habits of thought generally of the people who rave about the Stars and Stripes, will be more amused than surprised to hear that a meeting got up in New York in honor of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers and attended by English delegates was broken up by a mob of "patriots," a Mrs. Gertrude Corliss, president of "The American Pickers," asserting as a reason that her organization knew "there is a plot to make the United States a part of the British Empire and that this Sulgrave Institution is a party to it." Some women are not greatly gifted with reason, and Mrs. Corliss is evidently not among those who think deeply. We shall hear next that Canada contemplates an immediate conquest of the United States by force of arms, and the pity of it is that there are people quite capable of believing such nonsense.

The attempt to cultivate friendly sentiment in the United States with a Presidential election going on, all the many varieties of Congressmen turned loose, Irish and German patriots sore to biliousness, and baseball showing signs of degeneracy; was certainly ill-

timed though well-meant. There are multitudes of sensible Americans who need no conversion to amiable relations, and when they have revised all their school-books in the interest of historical accuracy and reared another generation or so there will be few Mrs. Corlisses about.

Thoughtful Use of the Ballot

Frederick George Scott, poet, military chaplain, canon, publicist and humanitarian, gave the Canadian Club of Toronto a rousing address on the serious things coming before Canada in its young nationhood at a recent luncheon. He had remembered going with his father as a small boy to hear the salute fired at McGill College on July 1, 1867, and half a century later he found himself celebrating Dominion Day, in 1917, with the Canadian troops at Villiers du Bois. They fired no salute, but all along the lines their guns poured forth their death-dealing missiles to the enemy. He contrasted the earlier period, when the sense of national life had just begun to stir, with the conditions existing when, in the St. Pol Road, the massed hands played "O Canada," the pride of being a citizen of Canada welled up in every heart. The very vigor and strength of their young life militated against the reflection that was necessary to a proper understanding of the responsibilities of the individual citizen. He was too apt to cast his vote and leave the government of the country to professional politicians.

The problems of citizenship he ranged under three heads: The duty of the State to the individual, to the home and to the Empire. The truest riches of a nation were not its physical resources but the mind and character of its people. Mines and water power were all very well, but we must dig into the minds of the people, and our sources of power must be tapped in their moral development. Every action of the population should be guarded religiously. Many parents were wholly unqualified for the health of children at public schools of the efficiency of the race, but parents themselves often opposed what they considered the interference of officials. There should be examination of each child of the state of its teeth, throat, nasal passages, and as to weight and growth. But mind training was the chief factor in education. No class had a monopoly of brains. Education was not enough in common. Robert Lord Rhondha and Premier Lloyd George had sprung from a class which formerly would have been denied education. He included moral and religious influences under this head. The brain of a child was the source of power, but mere secular education was not enough in itself, but education of the State eventually as a practical blunder. The brotherhood of man with man was founded on the brotherhood of man with God. He touched on the unlovely and unhealthy homes of city life and contrasted Mrs. Bar-nett's Hampstead Garden suburb, with its air and space, where the death rate was 89 per cent less than the general London rate. In the thoughtful use of the ballot alone he saw the hope of gaining what he needed.

MUSICAL ROCKS.

Musical sands are more or less common, but musical rocks, as far as is known, exist only in one place, in Pennsylvania, about forty miles from Philadelphia. They are of a uniform dark brown color, showing unmistakable traces of iron, and most rocks do—neither do any wild plants or weeds grow near them, nor will any ivy grow over them. When struck with a hammer or other metallic instrument they respond with a clear resonant note like a bell. A musician after a little practice is able to produce the notes of the scale on them in a manner similar to the xylophone. When smelt of the British coal and struck elsewhere they refuse to ring, and this fact leads many to believe that the ground underneath the rocks is formed like a huge sounding board, while the loose masses of granite have been cunningly arranged by the hand of nature to refract sound in such a way as to produce the ringing notes.

WHY WE EAT SALADS.

The importance of acquiring a sufficient quantity of vitamins in everyday food has been abundantly made clear. The need for fresh raw foods is due to the fact that the anti-scorbutic vitamin is sensitive to heat and very easily destroyed. It is soluble in water, therefore the practice of leaving salads in water for an hour or so to crispen the leaves is a mistaken one. In eating raw vegetables it is always wise to select them as young and fresh as possible. The carrot is very reasonable, and—rare among roots—is the possessor of all the vitamins. It is most digestible when quite small.

In proportion to its size a bee is 30 times as strong as a horse.

POEMS

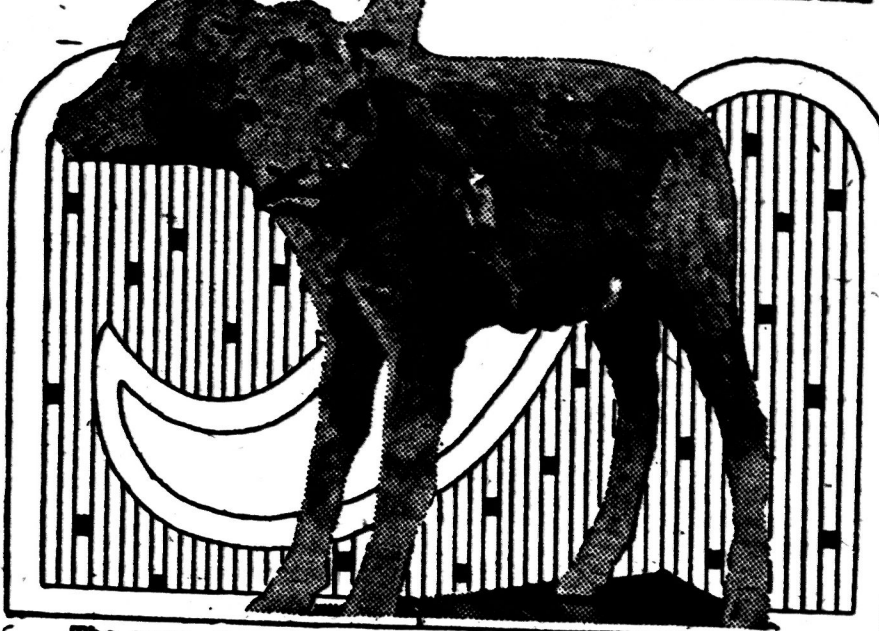
NOCTURNE.

Up to her chamber window,
A slight wire treads goes,
And up this Romeo ladder
Climbers a bold white rose.
I lounge in the flex shadows,
I see the lady lean,
Unclassing her silken girdle,
The curtain's folds between.

She smiles on her white rose lover,
She reaches out her hand
And helps him in at the window—
I see it where I stand!
To her scarlet lip she holds him,
And kisses him many a time—
Ah, me! it was he that won her
Because he dared to climb.

—Thomas Bailey Aldrich.

MOVIES CLOSE DOOR OF MUSEUM OF FREAKS



The museum of freaks has lost all of its appeal in this day of moving picture activities. For instance, what little boy or girl will not get a thrill from seeing this two-headed calf—born on the farm of J. B. Battle, of Nichols, S. C.? It was perfect in every way except for the two heads. It was photographed at Washington, where it was being stuffed and mounted.

Helps the Housewife

IF PAINT DRIES ON BRUSHES.
Boil the brush in water to which a little lye has been added. Washing powder or soap can be used but the process will take much longer. Care must be taken that the boiling water is no deeper than the length of the bristles, as the setting may be affected. But as lye is injurious to bristles this method must only be used very occasionally.

BREAD AND BUTTER.

There is a reason for our eating butter with our bread. It is a rational combination. The bread is deficient in fat, which the butter supplies. To serve up butter or egg-sauce with white fish is a sensible proceeding, because white fish is wanting in fat; while salmon, herring, and the like, rich in fat, do not require such a sauce.

REMOVING MILDEW.

Cut common soap into small pieces, add a little water to it and set it on the fire until dissolved and the consistency of cream. Stir in common salt and cover the mildewed fabric with the mixture. Expose to the sun for some hours and then wash off. Two applications will be sure to do the work.

MOTHS IN CARPET.

If moths have attacked carpet or rug treat the affected parts thus: lay a wet cloth below and above, press with a very hot iron then wash with strong carbolic soap and water, or with alum water. Then thoroughly clean the whole rug.

MIXING MUSTARD.

When mixing mustard, add a saltspoonful of salt and the same quantity of sugar, and mix with boiling water. It will be found to keep moist much longer, and have a better taste.

CAKE HINT.

The confectioner's cake has a rich brown top because he sprinkles a little fine white sugar over it before it goes into the oven.

Woolens can be made moth-proof with a solution of a pound of alum and a quart of water.

WRAPPING-PAPER AT HAND.
Save wrapping paper and twine that comes to you on parcels and get rich. So it is said. What to do with these troublesome and useful commodities is a small household problem. One way of keeping them tidily and at hand, is to tack to the back of the kitchen door a flat cotton bag, the width of the door, and forming a pocket. Into this paper folded flat is slipped. A string bag on the same principle is placed nearby, with a pair of scissors on a nail or tucked under a little strap of tape.

CARE OF LEATHER FURNITURE.
To clean leather furniture add a lit-

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF CHILDREN

By ELINOR MURRAY

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THE AVERAGE BABY.

Up to the time when baby creeps around and is "generally under foot" there is not much danger of urging him too fast. The wise mother just leaves him alone, doesn't play with him or allow him to become excited. She doesn't teach him tricks and show him off on every possible occasion. She doesn't allow visitors to romp with him or toss him in the air. She doesn't take him calling or visiting where there are a number of people. She doesn't take him on the street car or traveling except when it is absolutely necessary.

When it comes to walking the baby suits himself. He will walk when his bones and muscles are strong enough; and if he has been properly fed there need be no fear of how legs or knock-knee when he starts to walk of his own accord, whatever his age. The age of walking is very variable. At nine or ten months the baby first realizes that his feet are meant to

stand upon, and if at a year he is able to walk with support he is doing well. Do not dance baby up and down on your knee in the effort to make him "find his feet." He is not likely to make any mistakes about them providing you do your share in the matter of care and food. The three-year-old is out coasting on the front lawn, and across the road watching him from a window is a little chap five weeks younger, who has not yet "found his feet." We cannot know the why of all these things, and our very helplessness must make the heartache keener.

The child who does not walk by himself at eighteen months may be considered backward, and the cause should be looked into. Walking is a mental as well as a physical process. Bulky diapers hamper the walking child, and should be discarded for drawers as soon as possible.

The power of speech is the next acquisition. At a year he should be able to name his mother and father by some chosen appellation. He gradually adds a few single words, and finally at two years he can express himself in simple sentences. Children who talk readily should not be stimulated too much; but on the other hand, indolence in talking should be discouraged. Adenoids may cause a delay in talking, and deafness or mental deficiency should be considered if the child is speechless after two and one-half years.

A Little of Everything

ORIGIN OF COFFEE.

The plant known as the "coffee arabica" is indigenous to Abyssinia. An ancient manuscript of the fifteenth century states that the use of coffee for drinking was known and practiced from time immemorial. There is a legend ascribing the discovery of its beneficent properties to a flock of sheep, wandering in the mountains, which browsed on the bright leaves of the coffee plant and immediately became elated and sleepless at night. Observing their exhilaration, the prolonged religious services of the Mohammedans, which lasted days and nights on end, the coffee was early used as a sort of devotional antispasmodic to keep the worshippers awake and keyed to the correct pitch of Oriental devoutness. In spite of the fact that its use was prohibited in the Koran except for religious ceremonies, it became the national beverage of Arabia, as widely used as tea in China.

POLLEN THIEVES.

In those public gardens where there are orchid-houses, a class of thieves who are most mischievous, and also very difficult to catch, are frequently busy. These are the "pollen punchers," as they are termed by the attendants at such places. They lurk about inside the orchid-houses, pre-tending to be studying the various varieties. Then, when the attendant's back is turned, they deftly pinch between the finger and thumb a small quantity of pollen from the blossom of some rare species, and transfer it to a lightly-stoppered test tube, or a small but wide-mouthed bottle carried in the vest-pocket. Just a morsel of golden dust! That is all. But from this the orchid-grower who thoroughly understands his business—and, needless to say, most pollen pinchers do understand it—is able to change and propagate plants that may eventually bring him in hundreds of pounds.

MOVIES AND SWEETS.

Most people who are fond of cinema and sweets mix the two pleasures indiscriminately. It has been discovered lately that there is a right kind of sweetener for every film. Those who indulge in chocolate bon-bons while a Pauline Frederick tragedy is being screened do not derive complete satisfaction from them. There is only one thing for tragedy, and that is a good stiff caramel, which gives the jaws something to grip in a tense moment and supports the nervous tissues during the strain. The caramel, on the other hand, is quite unsuitable for Charlie Chaplin comedies, during which the mouth opens for laughter at frequent intervals. This is where the easily-dissolved chocolate comes into its own. The consumption of an acid drop in the course of a drama of the sentimental type would be quite out of tune with the picture. A tender love scene demands something particularly sweet—the fondant, for example. The detective or spy drama, with its sensational episodes, requires a lot of concentration, and the cine-goer will experience a great deal of relief if he chews a hard gum or sucks a toffee while witnessing them.

MANSIONS OF MUD.

In order to solve the housing problem, a builder at Los Angeles is putting up 200 attractive mud houses. He is copying the idea from the ancients and South American natives, who used to build their houses of wet soil, mixed with straw, cast in moulds of required size, and left in the sun to dry. Generally speaking, any earth with a clay base, that makes it cohesive when watered, can be used for the purpose. The straw in the mud serves a purpose similar to that of steel reinforcement in concrete. The mud mansions built scores of years ago by the Mexicans are to-day in splendid condition, although somewhat damp and insanitary. These faults, however, are being remedied. The builder makes these claims for the houses now under construction: That they are everlasting, meaning that the occupants will never know the annoyance or expense of the usual repair bills. That they are sound-proof, so that howling winds, rattling roofs, or other noises will not be heard within. That they are non-conductive and fireproof, cool in summer and warm in winter.

DIMENSIONS OF A FILM FACE.

Because a girl is pretty and can act, it does not follow that she has a good film face. The perfect camera face is the one which comes nearest the measurements and proportions standardized by photographic experts. The lines of the chin, it seems, must form an obtuse angle when looked at squarely. And the distance from the point of the chin to the base of the nose must equal the distance from the tip. The distance from ear to ear over the top of the head must equal the distance from the apex of the chin to the crown of the head. The mouth when in a smile should never be more than a fifth larger than the mouth in repose, while the distance from the point of the chin to the eyes should be exactly equal to the distance from the eyes to the crown of the head. The top of the ears should be even with the eyebrows, and the ear itself should be so situated that a line drawn from the top of the head straight downward would indicate exactly where the ear joins.

To keep out drafts but admit light, a celluloid window shade has been invented, a stock in the bottom being inserted in grooves in a window frame to prevent it from curling.

All the odors of cooking are carried off into a chimney from a range invented in Paris which is enclosed with glass doors on the principle of the chemist's draft closet.