

A group of scientists can prove any thing.

Does the weather chief still claim to be a better prophet than the groundhog?

Paper money may be made smaller, in which case it will be just as hard to get.

There is nothing nicer after all than the seen but not heard style of bathing suit.

The size of the hatpin may be reduced, but the size of the hat will continue to develop.

A New Jersey woman married a man because he pestered her. That was why she divorced him, too.

A Brussels surgeon wants \$29,000 for an operation on King Leopold. Considering the results, is it worth the money?

The United States of South Africa has just been born. It will take time, but the United States of the World is bound to come.

When a man announces that he is ready for a political fight, he means that he is prepared to make a scramble for a political job.

Launches of the battleship Florida call attention to the fact that international peace is becoming more expensively armed all the time.

The oyster recently found with 54 pearls in its internal department seems to be in a higher class than the one which contains one million typhoid germs.

A New Jersey woman wants a divorce because her husband stutters. And yet, when he proposed, she probably regarded him as a charming conversationalist.

"Come on to the Grass" signs have been placed in certain of the New York City parks—an innovation which fills the hearts of the children with joy. It is a pity that such signs are not more common.

Anna Held announces that if her husband wants a divorce he may have one without any opposition on her part. She is alleged, also, to have declared in favor of experimental marriages. Nearly all marriages seem to be experimental nowadays.

A New York Judge defends his acceptance of a free home telephone on the ground that, so far from being a private convenience, it is a personal nuisance. But suppose the judge had a bill for it coming in every month, with a fine for non-payment before the tenth?

Edison's clerkless store, where the customer may, by dropping a coin in a slot, get what he wants done up in a neat package, will never be a success until he invents a return slot in which she may deposit the purchase to be exchanged for something else just a shade lighter or darker.

German paper-makers are experimenting with various fiber plants in the hope of finding a material sufficiently cheap for use in supplying the constantly increasing demand. Sisal hemp, wild grasses, palm-leaves, Spanish broom, banana fiber and cotton-bolls are among the substances tested. The United States government is engaged in similar experiments. If some substitute for wood pulp can be found the forests will be allowed to stand a little longer.

Occasionally, although not usually, a parrot is talkative at the right time. It was only by the opportune loquacity of her pet parrot that an Italian woman, saved from deportation recently at the New York immigration station. She was unable to speak English, and was trying to convince the inspectors that she was returning to America after a visit to Italy, when the parrot broke loose with a volley of slang phrases which could never have been learned in any other land than this.

France, like Germany, Great Britain, Belgium and Denmark, has adopted an old-age pension system. Great Britain and Denmark have the non-contributory system—that is, the beneficiaries pay nothing to the insurance fund, but the government does it all. This is condemned by its critics as a system of mere largess which is fraught with evils and dangers. Its cost in Great Britain is from \$40,000,000 to \$45,000,000 a year. France has adopted the contributory system, much after the German plan. Belgium has both systems, offering a much larger pension to the contributing classes. The contributory system, which not only removes the fear of a destitute old age, but also encourages thrift, is in effect a form of compulsory insurance for the millions engaged in all kinds of gainful occupations, although for some classes, notably the farming class, it is optional rather than compulsory. Employers and workmen contribute equally in Germany and France, and the government adds a third share to the total fund. In most cases the qualifying age is 70, except in Denmark, where it is 60.

On the theory that everything that is done is done to the exclusion of something else, W. C. Gannett discusses in Unity "the abdication of the natural parent," and the "furious custody" of fads of "child study," "child science," "child legislation," and "child welfare" in general. Because we have child conferences, and because there is a bill in Congress to create a children's bureau in the Federal Government, he seems to have jumped to the conclusion that the natural parent has quit, or, as he puts it, abdicated. Following the analogies which he himself invites, it would not be difficult to show that Mr. Gannett is

wrong. For instance, because we have industrial conferences and conservation congresses, it does not follow that every individual is not paying the same or increased attention to his own business, and to the care of his own property. Conventions of insurance men do not mean less, but more, study of the business represented. They mean simply that, while each man has his own ways of doing business, he can see that he would gain rather than lose by sharing some of his information with the others. The child movement is probably due more to society's enlarged and improved idea of the value of the child than to a waning interest in the child in the home. Society formerly took children as they were developed by time into men and women. It accepted them as they came to it, of age. Today society looks back a stretch of years at the child who has not come out, and wonders whether there is not something it can do to bring him out stronger and better. It has learned through the patient investigations of a few that a number of things which it supposed he was getting were not his. It has stepped in to give him those things, sometimes directly, more often by stimulating parents to get them for him. This is almost the entire explanation of the child movement, which so amuses some and annoys others, but which holds an unwelcome charm for those who are interested in it. The one-half of the world is beginning to be interested in how the other half lives.



Vaccine Treatment of Colds.

In a former article was explained the theory of the newly discovered opsonic or vaccine treatment of infectious diseases, and it was shown how the remedy is obtained from the patient himself. It was then stated that although in some cases a "stock vaccine" could be used, applicable to all cases of a certain disease, better results are usually obtained if the vaccine is prepared fresh for each case from the special strain of bacteria in the patient's own body.

This is especially necessary in the treatment of colds and of the tendency thereto, for it has been found that the symptoms of an acute cold or of chronic catarrh are caused by several different species of bacteria, and the vaccine good for one kind is of little or no efficacy in the others.

The only way to find out which bacteria are at work is to make a culture from the patient's own nasal or throat secretions, and when this is obtained it can be used as the proper vaccine.

The usual form of pneumonia—croupous or lobar pneumonia—is generally caused by a specific germ, and a stock vaccine may be used if necessary, but it is better to use the patient's own bacteria even here, for there are usually certain peculiarities in each case. The treatment of pneumonia in this way is very recent, but the few cases that have been reported have been so successful as to give hope that eventually the disease will be conquered by this means.

In regard to colds and catarrhs, the matter is not so simple. It has been found that no less than six distinct forms of bacteria may produce an acute or chronic catarrh. There is one that has a preference for the nose, another for the back of the throat, and still another for the bronchial tubes; but no one of them has a monopoly of any region, and sometimes a number of them are working together in the same case in perfect harmony. In the treatment of a cold, therefore, one must first ascertain what bacteria are at fault, and whether one or several kinds. Then the corresponding stock vaccine, or a combination of several, is given so as to lose no time while a new vaccine made from the patient's own germs is being prepared.

Not only has it been found possible to cut short acute colds, and benefit or cure chronic catarrhs, but it seems probable that permanent immunity may be secured by an opsonic injection, given every six months. All this is tentative, however, and although the method promises much, it is still too early to speak with confidence of future results.—Youth's Companion.

"Unfamiliar Commodities." "Any book in particular, sir?" asked the young woman in charge of the book counter of a large department store. "For this is a great novel." "Not for me," said the old gentleman, who had been examining the stock in trade with an air of considerable disapproval. Where do you keep the classics, young woman? "Lamb's 'Tales,' for example?" The young woman looked puzzled. "Bacon?" said the old man. "Crabbe? Fox?" "I don't know about fox," said the young woman, "but I guess what you must be lookin' for is the provision department."

"More Scandal." Mrs. Simmonds glanced at the scare headline, "Bank Robbed! Police at Sea!" and laid down the sheet. "Naow, look at that, Ez!" she ejaculated, repeating the headline aloud. "Here's a big city bank broke into by burglars, and the city police force all off fishin' somewhere! What a scandal!"

"Her Self Possession." "Miss Oldcastle is always self possessed no matter what happens." "Well, she ought to be seeing that she has had practice in the self possession line for at least thirty-five years!"—Chicago Record-Herald.

How far can you get from home before you become a stranger? It's difficult for a landlord and tenant to trot in double harness.

THE BOYSCOUTS OF AMERICA



A PATROL OF BOYSCOUTS MARCHING TO THE RENDEZVOUS

Great movements have silent beginnings! And so it is not strange that the organization of the "Boy Scouts" in the United States should have been passed over with a bare mention in the press. The society had its birth in Washington, the latter part of April, and its sponsors were Col. E. J. Spencer and Mr. William H. Thomson, of St. Louis, and Dr. Gussatus, W. D. Boyce, R. O. West and C. H. Stoddard, of Chicago, and the bill of incorporation was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Graf, of Illinois, a member of the Committee on Education.

To the superficial observer the organization of a semi-military society among young boys may not appear of great moment. We have only to follow the effects of the society in Great Britain to foreshadow its effects here. The boy is the same, the world over, and he is to be appealed to in much the same manner on both sides of the Atlantic. It must not be supposed that the appeal is to his savage instinct, to the native barbarian that is in him. Indeed the reverse of this is true. The scouts are little soldiers; but they are taught so many other things besides scouting that the soldier is almost wholly lost in the embryo man.

The British society, according to a writer in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, was founded by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the hero of Mafeking, who had seen service in India, Afghanistan and all the British provinces of Africa before the Boer war and whose wide experience as a soldier was linked with the most sympathetic understanding of the timber of which armies are made. The need for some such organization among English boys was made unmistakably plain to him by the timber that presented itself at the outbreak of hostilities in South Africa, or rather at the time when the fight assumed such proportions that volunteers were called for. To his surprise and chagrin the general discovered that the English boy was not fitted to take up arms in behalf of his country. He was a poor campaigner because he had not learned to take care of himself, and he was inclined to look upon this service to his country as a great and unnatural hardship. Gen. Baden-Powell studied the British youth during the trying days of the struggle, and when the war was over and he had been appointed to the post of inspector general of cavalry, he used this vantage ground to further study the soldier and to determine what it was that had been lacking in his early education. The younger boys were all around him, and with the silent plea of their appearance and attitude, he formulated a scheme that would transform indifferent and even vicious youngsters into the type of men of which Britain might be proud.

Even Sir Baden-Powell, with his iridescent dream of a great movement for the betterment of the English boy, builded better than he knew, for the work of the society has gone leagues beyond his dream in its splendid reality. It is making little men, not merely prospective soldiers, and it is developing ideals of the highest and most helpful kind in the young boys of this generation, ideals that will prove an invincible power in the men of tomorrow. All this seems extravagant notions to him who has preconceived notions of the work of the army scout. We look upon the scout as the daring pioneer in a military engagement. He has courage and ingenuity, but beyond that we have given little thought to his other characteristics. And we need not

consider the others, for courage and ingenuity are enough to start with. The scout is the idol of the small boy, because he is brave and resourceful, and to call a boy a scout is to make him desire to be these two things, brave and resourceful.

Gen. Baden-Powell knew the boy nature far too well to begin with high ideals and practical work. He gathered together a small company of interesting little chaps and told them that he wanted to train them as scouts. That was thrilling and the youngsters took to it with avidity. Others came and when they had been on camp a few weeks they spread the news that they had had the time of their lives, and that their friends could do the same things next summer if they would join the order and learn the preliminary lessons. The result was that the idea spread like an epidemic until there is no part of the British empire that does not boast its boy scouts.

The scout badge is not bestowed until the boy has acquired a great deal of skill and information. He must learn about wild animals and how to track, trap and dress them. He must achieve skill in woodcraft and the art of building boats and bridges, must know how to set up a tent or, in the absence of tents, he must be able to construct a shelter of such materials as he finds in the woods. All the appliances for saving life must be mastered. The scout knows what to do in the water, and how to resuscitate the victim, who is all but dead when he is rescued. He can swim and dive, can paddle any kind of boat that is seaworthy and repair, with any tools at hand, the one that leaks to the danger point. He is taught the simple rudiments of gun-shot surgery, so that in case of accident he can give intelligent aid to the injured while awaiting

the surgeon. Many a life is lost because those on the ground do not know what to do, and either do nothing at all or do the wrong thing.

The boy makes friends with the horse, studies his habits and learns how to handle him. The true scout never jerks or teases or beats the animal he has in charge, and he acquires the art of stopping the runaway steed in the street, and takes it upon himself to reprimand the non-scout who is caught abusing his horse. He learns what to do in case of fire, how to enter a burning building for the purpose of saving life or property, and how to escape from one in the safest manner possible. Many other practical lessons of everyday life are included in the scout's course of instruction, and through all of it runs the note of self-reliance and resourcefulness. He is made to use his brains to face problems and think out the solution, to conquer difficulties and surmount obstacles. And all this is given to him in the guise of play!

In the woods the boy acquires a great deal of real information concerning plants and animals. He studies the tracks of certain animals that are good for food and fur, especially those that are a constant menace to the chicken roost, and learns to trap or shoot them and then cook them so that they will be palatable to a woodsman with a ravenous appetite and no finicky notions about what is proper to eat. The boy with the puniest appetite and the most foolishly indulgent mother comes home, after an encampment with the scouts, ready to eat anything that is set before him. He has been impressed with the idea that it is effeminate and weak to be critical about his food. The real, hardy scout can eat anything that is not poisonous, and relish it. And he gets over the notion that cooking is

work only for women or for the hired chef. He takes pride in his ability to make coffee and broil bacon over a fire of coals, and greater pride in his ability to go forth and forage for a meal, capture his game and make his own bread.

There is another part of the play that adds the necessary thrill to keep all this serious work adequately sugar-coated. It is the actual scouting. There is target practice and the man, of three or four are sent forth to investigate. They can creep through the underbrush without making a sound, can climb trees and swim rivers in the quest. They learn to find their way by means of maps and compass and to steer their course by the sun and stars. Instruction in the signal code with smoking torch and bonfire is a part of the camp course, and they are taught the system of flag signals in use in the British army. There is target practice and the man, of arms, setting up exercise and dress parade drill in the day's work. All this appeals to the boy while it is developing his body and molding his character. He becomes alert and strong, cultivates the habit of close observation and attention to details, and better than all these, he is imbued with the sentiment that it is worthy and kind to be gentle toward the weak and helpless, that a fellow who would lie or cheat or in any way take an unfair advantage is a person beneath contempt, and that the fellow who "cherishes a grudge" is decidedly in the way and ought not to be tolerated. He is saturated with the thought that selfishness and cowardice are despicable. He is charged to do each day some worthy and unselfish act, to help some one in distress or add to some one's comfort and happiness.

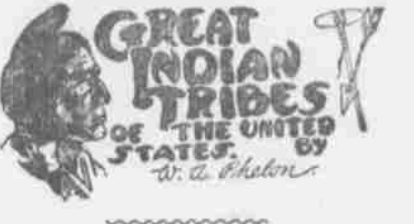
The Horse's Prayer.
Pathetic and ironical as it may seem, the horse looks up to man as his god. In the Swedish they have a "Prayer of the Horse," addressed to his human lord and master, which in sum is as follows:
"O lord, my master, I thank and adore you for the kind word you spoke to me long ago, and I strive in the hope that you will pet me once in a while. If I cannot understand what you wish me to do, please be patient and show me. Don't beat me or jerk on the reins, but look and see if something is not wrong with the harness."
"I beg of you not to whip me going up hill, nor give me leads heavier than I can pull. Keep me ahead so that I can get a foothold, and don't let the farrier cripple my feet. If I am sick or have an ulcerated tooth, go easy with me for a day, as I am feeble myself with pain."
"Oh, grant me cool, clean water in the hot weather, and let me not eat my fodder dry."
"Finally, when my strength is gone, and I cannot any more work for you enough to be worth my keep, I beseech of you don't let me be sold to drag a vendor's cart, but take my life in the quickest and easiest way, and God will reward you in this life and in heaven. Amen."

Everybody loves a hero a long way off, and picks unfairly at his neighbor next door.

Your second thoughts may be best if they arrive on time.

WHEN MAN PROPOSES.

Predicament in Which Woman is Placed Who Loves Another.
If a woman could have the same liberty of choice in the acquiring of a husband as a man has in the selection of a wife, consider the change it would make in the marriage problem and in the divorce court. It by no means follows that because a man loves a woman she loves him, Margaret M. Tuttle says in Collier's. But he may be the only man who loves her, or he may be the only man who is eligible, or the only man her people want her to marry, or any one of a hundred unless you can easily think of for yourself. And what then? There may be some unattractive man the woman really does love, but what can she do? Almost nothing! She is bound to choose from the men who come to her. True, she can stay single, and many women do so, and on this very account—that they never have happened to love the men who loved them. But to stay single is not a solution of the question, and it does not appeal to the majority of women. Nine times out of ten the woman locks up in her heart the ideal of a husband she has formed, or the preferences she has inherited or acquired, or the thought of the other man she wants to marry. If she is a woman of character she persuades herself and others that he is the man she wants to marry. She lends herself to whatever form his wooing may take. If he is blonde and bearded, though she prefers dark eyes and shaven face, yet you would never guess it from word of hers. She may have assured herself every day that she will marry only a man of dignity, but she will relent when her suitor proves a clown. She may adore spontaneous merriness, and not only marry a straightlaced prude, but swear that it is the only kind of man she can endure.



The Cree.
While the Cree Indians are not, properly speaking, United States property, excepting a few who have found their way into Montana and North Dakota, no list of Indian tribes is really complete without some remarks upon this extraordinary people—a nation which covers more territory, with its various little bands and scattered groupings, than any other race of red men on the continent. In fact, it is doubtful whether any savage nation in the world roves over an equal space of ground, excepting, possibly, the Arabs, and there are a thousand Arabs to every Cree.

A map of North America, with the Cree hunting grounds marked in red, would have a decidedly pinkish appearance north of the United States boundary line. The Cree Indian inhabits Labrador, northern Quebec, and the wilderness of Ungava. He roves on either shore of Hudson bay. His camp fires dot the vast expanse of the northwestern territories from Winnipeg to far Mackenzie, from Hudson bay to the Rocky mountains. The great forests of Keweenaw, Saskatchewan, and even the Yukon are his hunting field. He comes down upon the plains, and even crosses the boundary line. Many of the Chippewa at Turtle mountain are really Cree, and bands of them infest the Flathead and Fort Belknap reservations, in Montana. The Montagnais of Quebec, the Neskapi of Ungava, the Salteaux of Keweenaw, the Wood Cree of the western forests, and the Plains Cree of the prairie are all brothers in language. They are Algonquin, related in many ways to the Chippewa, but shorter in stature and stronger physically.

The hunting grounds of the Cree must cover a total area of not much under 2,000,000 square miles, and the tribe, in its various branches, numbers perhaps 25,000 souls. Consumption is rife among many of the Cree tribes, but the number of the whole race does not materially lose or gain from year to year.

The Cree, though always friendly to the whites, have had their share of war, and have waged campaigns with fair success against the Sioux, Blackfeet, and Eskimo. A large proportion of them are mixed bloods, and perhaps half the tribe are descended from French or Scotch traders and trappers of the long ago.

First Justice to Wear Gown.
"Few people, I venture to say, even in high official positions, know what justice wore the first gown in the Supreme Court of the United States," said an authority on the subject recently. "When Justice John Jay took the office he thought the members of the supreme bench should wear gowns of some sort. Accordingly he appeared in his own academic gown, which he wore by virtue of having received a degree from the University of Dublin, or, as it was then known, Trinity college. It was a tricolored gown, too. Such a garment would look peculiar now, since the black gown has been adopted."
Curious Remedies.
In Lincolnshire if a girl is suffering with the ague she cuts off a lock of her hair and ties it to an aspen tree, imploring the latter to shake in her stead. In good old Ross-shire, where every once in a while a rooster is buried alive as a remedy for epilepsy—not in the rooster, but in the person who does the burying—some of the hair of the patient is generally added to the offering.—London Standard.
Out of Training.
"My boy's back from college."
"How does he take hold on the farm?"
"It hasn't seen him make no cane rush for the woodpile."—Kansas City Journal.
Which would you rather have cut off, providing it was necessary to lose one or the other: an arm or a leg?
No man ever loves the way he thought he would. He loves the way he has to or is allowed to.

"OLD BILL MACABBE"

Saw Halley's Visitor from Deck of the Constitution in 1835.
Probably one of the most interesting spectators of the comet's journey from the eastern to the western sky last night was William Macabbe, an inmate of the United States Naval home at 24th street and Gray's Ferry Road, the Philadelphia Inquirer says.

"Old Bill," as he is familiarly called by his comrades at the home, is 106 years old, and when Halley's comet made its last appearance in 1835 he was a sailor, 31 years old.

WEALTHY UNIVERSITY.

Harvard Might Use Its \$23,000,000 to Teach Useful Subjects.
Harvard University presents the annual report of the president and treasurer in a large volume filled with interesting data. The institution starts off with nearly \$23,000,000 of invested funds which produce almost a million dollars annual revenue. The "plant" is worth some more millions, while the current receipts are large. As a going concern Harvard seems to be a very prosperous corporation.

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