

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER.

VOL. LI

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1925

NO. 14

## Use Electric Shocks for Regulating Hearts

One of the most remarkable of recent medical inventions is the static wave device.

Its purpose is to regulate the beating of the heart, should it be too fast or too slow. The patient sits in an insulated chair connected with a machine which passes an electric current through the body.

Outside the machine is a revolving ball, fixed to the end of a metal rod. Every time this ball passes another stationary ball, electricity is discharged from the body, causing the muscles to relax.

If the heart should be beating 74 times a minute, but is six beats fast, says the Detroit News, the revolving ball is timed to go around at 74 revolutions a minute and the heart is thus slowed down to its correct time. In the same way, the heart can be quickened.

This wonderful machine was exhibited at a recent medical exhibition in London. The force of the current is such that a person putting his hand within six inches of the chair receives a powerful shock.

## Turned From Smithy to Watch Designing

The first Swiss watch was made by a blacksmith. In 1880 a distinguished Englishman was traveling through Switzerland when his watch failed him and the nearest approach he could find to a watchmaker was a young blacksmith, Daniel Jean Richard. This young man undertook to repair the watch, which he did successfully. He profited so greatly by this experience in the knowledge he acquired of the design and construction of watches that he became the first watchmaker of the country and the pioneer of a great industry. According to a Swiss watchmaker visiting this country, the district of Neuchatel produces more watches than any similar locality in the world.

## When to Find Acorns

Many members of the tree-planting army like the oak. As a group, oaks carry general marks of distinction from other trees. One of these marks is the bearing of acorns, in which the oak has no competition, says the American Tree Association of Washington, which for a two-cent stamp will send you tree-planting suggestions.

All of the oaks may be grouped as either white or black. To the former group belong the white oak proper and the bur oak, swamp white oak, chestnut oak, overcup oak, the post oak, and live oak, which may be recognized by the rounded lobes of their leaves, with the exception of the post oak and live oak, which have no lobes;

and by their light gray or light buffish-brown bark, which breaks off into loose, flaky scales. The bur oak is distinguished from its close kinsmen by its corklike branches. The trees of this group mature their acorns in a single year, and for this reason acorns of old and new crops are never found on the same tree.

## Relic of Feudal Days

The old Norman tower of Holy Trinity church, at Richmond, in Yorkshire, England, dates back to the Eleventh century. It is one of the few, if not the only church, where the old custom of ringing the curfew still survives. The tower contains two bells. For centuries the larger bell has been rung every day at six o'clock in the morning and again at curfew hour—eight o'clock in the evening. The smaller bell is rung at eleven o'clock on Shrove Tuesday morning "to bid the housewives tend the fires and cook the pancakes well." Another quaint survival at this church is the practice of ringing the "gathering bell" on the occasion of a funeral to give the mourners an hour's notice to prepare. Unless speedy restoration work is undertaken this ancient tower is said to be doomed.—Family Herald.

## His Own Death Notice

Mike was working diligently in his potato patch when he saw the postman coming up the road, bringing a black-edged envelope.

Mike became uneasy, and showed it.

"Hope it's not bad news," said the postman.

"It is that," said Mike, looking at the address. "It's upset I am entirely. My brother, Pat's dead. I can tell by his handwriting."—From Everybody's Magazine.

## Animal Highly Valued

The water buffalo is valued highly in China, especially in the fields, where it is used for the cultivation of the rice crop. It is said that they are more powerful than the ox and capable of dragging or carrying a heavier load. The female yields a much greater quantity of milk than a cow, and of excellent quality, from which the ghee or semi-solid butter of India is made. The hide is valued for its strength and durability.

## Art of Dining Out

Dining out is an art, it is not learned in a day; and as the right guests at a table are as important as the food and drink if not more so—care must be taken in their selection, writes Charles Hanson Towne, in *Harper's*. The hostess who gives no thought to the placing of those around her board is a social fool. She does not deserve even the modicum of success. For when people are to be intimate with one another for two hours, imprisoned at an inelastic table, there is a serious aspect of the situation which requires foresight and a profound knowledge of human nature. Many dinners fall because there has been no diagram made of spiritual needs.

## Queer "Felicitation"

Ignorant of English, a Frenchman wished to telegraph his congratulations to an English friend on his marriage.

He wrestled with the dictionary until the happy couple were fairly on their honeymoon, and by that time he had evolved the following: "May you be happy in the workhouse!"

His friend was about to demand an explanation, when it dawned upon him that what was meant was: "May you be happy in the union." [For the benefit of American readers it should be stated that all English workhouses (or institutions for the poor) are known as union workhouses.]

## Bureau of Printing

On June 30, 1878, congress appropriated \$300,000 for the purchase of the site at Fourteenth and B streets, Southwest, and for the erection of the bureau of engraving and printing. The building was completed and occupied July 1, 1880. In 1891 a wing was added to the southwest end and in 1904 a wing was added to the west end. Congress appropriated funds for the new building in 1907. This was completed and occupied in 1914.

## Gave Name to Vogue

The name "silhouette" is derived from Etienne de Silhouette, a French minister of finance, who was famous for his measures of economy in 1759.

All business was stripped of unnecessary detail. Paintings were reduced to mere outlines.

Whether this was in conformance with the spirit of economy or because it was coincidence that black and white outline portraits became popular at this time, the name "Silhouette" was applied to them and has clung.

## Where Even Death Is Mild

We're not pessimistic, on the contrary we are happy. We live in the best port in China. Tientsin is a health resort, and if you look at our statistical reports you will see that we have less serious deaths than any other port, all other aspirants to the contrary.—The Mei Foo Shield (Shanghai).

## Plant Care

The only reason that house plants should not be kept in a sleeping room is that the temperature of a well-ventilated room is lower than the temperature necessary for plants. The average plant should have a night temperature of around 50 degrees and a day temperature of around 70 degrees.

## Early Church Dignitary

Rev. John Carroll, who was born in Upper Marlboro, Md., and who was educated abroad and returned to this country as a priest in 1774, became subsequently—about 1797—the first Catholic bishop in America.

## Immortal Nursery Tale

"Goody Two-Shoes," the old English nursery tale that is such a favorite with children, was written by Oliver Goldsmith in 1765 for Newberry, the publisher, whose office was near St. Paul's churchyard, London.

## Take Name From Birds

Gowk storms is the name that used to be applied to the short rainstorms that occur in spring, especially about the time the gowk, or cuckoo, reappears in the North after a winter's absence in the South.

## Oldest Newspaper

The oldest newspaper is supposed to be the Chinese Tching-Pao, or News of the Capitol, which has appeared daily in Peking since about 750 A. D. It consists chiefly of official news, imperial decrees, etc.

## Fatigue Fair

Western exchange: "Besides being a talented singer, Miss Rogers possesses a magnetic personality and a manner that is entirely free from affectiveness."—Boston Transcript.

## Harsh Words

Over-Gushing Hostess—Such a dear man the new vicar is—so outspoken. It's his sermon last Sunday he censured the devil most severely.—London Passsing Show.

## Halted Guns to Save

### Heroic Mother Bird

One day during the World war I was taking a battery of artillery along a grassy road, a writer in London *Tit-Bits* relates. The horses were trotting, and behind them the guns rumbled and swayed over rutts and stones. Suddenly there appeared not fifty yards in front of the leading horses a dozen fluffy brown partridge "cheepers," tiny mites no bigger than sparrows, running hither and thither in the wildest panic before the approaching danger. With them was the mother bird. She chivvied them off into the grass on either side of the road, and then, when the last one had made its escape, turned and with open beak and half-spread wings faced the battery, daring them to come on.

Had the battery not been halted the bird would have given her life in an endeavor to ensure the safety of her chicks. As it was, she achieved her object by a display of real heroism in the face of hopeless odds.

This is a typical example of the way nature makes heroines of animal mothers, no matter how timid they may be when they have no family to care for. In defense of their helpless young, nature's heroines will face any creature that threatens their safety.

## Species Unchanged for Eight Million Years

The longest pedigree in the world so far as science can discover belongs to the "sphenodon," which can boast an ancestry of eight million years duration. The sphenodon is found on a tiny island off the coast of New Zealand. There is nothing quite like it anywhere else.

The sphenodon is a reptile and is a mixture of crocodile, snake, turtle, and lizard. As a matter of fact, it is probably the ancestor of all these creatures, but in the process of evolution through countless ages, the "children" have altered and split up into a hundred and one different "families." The sphenodon, however, has gone on its way unchanged and is exactly as it was eight million years ago. This prehistoric creature shows greatest similarity to the lizard. It has four short legs and a long tail. Its face is rather like that of a fish and there is a hard ridge on the top of its head and down its back. The dinosaur and other prehistoric animals are of quite recent date compared with the sphenodon. It is generally supposed that the dinosaur disappeared off the earth a mere three million years ago!

## Religion

I've seen pretty clear ever since I was a young un, as religion's something else besides doctrines and notations. I look at it as if it the doctrines was like finding names for your feelings, so as you can talk of 'em when you've never known 'em, just as a man may talk o' tools when he knows their names, though he's never so much as seen 'em, still less handled 'em.

## Vanishing Race

A colony of 125 near Jerusalem, said to be descendants of the Samaritans of Biblical days, must soon become extinct unless they change their customs. For 2,000 years they have forbidden marriages outside their own people. Their numbers gradually have diminished and too close inbreeding is exterminating them.

## Petrifying Animals

A New York chemist has evolved a solution which, it is claimed, will mummify beasts, birds and fish in their natural colors. By dipping the creatures into the chemical solution it is said they become hard as though petrified and in that state are immune to decay and need not be kept in liquid while on display.

## Spice Bush in Spring

The little yellow flowers in tiny clusters on some of the bushes in the swamps and along the streams with the alders is spice bush, and by snapping a twig to smell or taste you can be sure, says *Nature Magazine*. The medicinelike odor and flavor are unlike that of any other plant.

## Propeller Reverses Ship

A propeller which will permit a ship to reverse its direction without reversing its engine and which may be replaced or repaired without the ship going into dry dock was recently invented at the University of Washington.

## Chance for Experiment

It was between dances. They were sitting in dim corner.

"You have wonderful eyes," he murmured.

"Yes?" she inquired expectantly. "They are like stars," he went on. Her lips brushed his as he murmured: "They are so bright."

His hand fumbled in his pocket and he drew forth a glittering object: "They are so very bright," he repeated. He thrust his watch before her. "See if you can see the time in the dark."

## Rubber Fruit

The luscious tropical fruits in a fully ripened state soon may appear on distant markets with each piece of fruit incased in a rubber composition known as latex.

Fruit dipped in the compound while it is warm retains all the original flavor. Strawberries, considered a difficult fruit to handle unless picked when very green, have been shipped half way around the world in latex.

The coating of rubber shuts out all the air, preventing any decomposition of the fruit. The latex becomes brittle when cold and is easily removed from the fruit.

## Record Granite Stone

The world's largest granite stone was recently quarried at Rockville, Minn. The stone, which was broken out by means of "Jackhammers," is 150 feet long, 75 feet thick, and 28 feet wide. It weighs 8,500,000 pounds.

## Science Explodes Myth

Rumanian experimenters who recently smoked cigarettes made of tobacco mixed with various poisons report that it would be practically impossible to smoke poison cigarettes unawares.

## Made Dragon Do Stunts

Seventeen men riding astride of a mechanical "dragon" in a German film production made the animal crawl, drink water, climb a tree, spit fire and finally bathe with the hero.

## Lincoln Used "I" Once

President Lincoln, in his second inaugural address, used the pronoun "I" only once, while Mr. Roosevelt avoided it entirely.

## First Olympiad

The first officially recorded Greek Olympiad was held in 776 B. C. Legend places the original games at a time far earlier than that.

## Irish Prefix Explained

The prefix "O" before the names of so many Irish families is an abbreviation of the word "ogha," meaning grandchild.

## Anyway

A cobbler arrested for wife desertion was found to have committed bigamy. He should have stuck to his last.—London Humorist.

## Tailor's Hell

The tailor's "hell" is the name of the large box tailors kept under the board on which they sat while at work. The word is thought to be a corruption of the French word "oieff" (pronounced all).

## Church Authority Runs Along National Lines

Authority in the eastern orthodox churches is divided along national lines. There is a Russian church, a Rumanian church, a Greek church and so on, with primates, metropolitans or patriarchs of their own nationality at the head of each.

Four offices to which a great and ancient prestige attaches are the patriarchates of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem, and that of the ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople has the most weight of all; his influence extends throughout the eastern churches; though his authority does not.

But the Russian church, for instance, is a sister church to that of Constantinople and not at all a subsidiary.

Now is this a result of recent events in Russia, the autonomy of the Russian Orthodox faith dating to 1721.

Under the czar this was the established church. Soviet Russia has disestablished it and appropriated certain of its properties, and the government policy includes a propaganda against all religion. But any faith whatever may be freely professed in Russia, so far as Soviet law is concerned.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

## Insects and Scientists

Scientists are making a special study of animal and insect life as a means of determining changes which have taken place in the earth.

The relations insects of one region bear to those of another indicate that certain islands were once connected.

In Jamaica, recently, they explored a very ancient section of that country that has been above the sea for a longer time than its neighboring land and which shelters insect tribes of great age. This discovery leads authorities to believe that animal life of that island is more closely associated with those of Haiti or Cuba, and that it originally found its way from the mainland over a land bridge long since engulfed by the ocean.—Family Herald.

## Modern Heroine

Barbara was selfish, thirsty for pleasures of the most vulgar sort, amused herself by collecting adorers and treating them badly, was stupid and a liar—in other words, was one of the normal types of healthy young womanhood. I should have been less disturbed by these discoveries if only her face had been different. But with that dazzling and mysteriously lovely face she was a perpetual source of surprise and pain. In Barbara's company I was learning that it is possible to be profoundly and slavishly in love with someone for whom one has esteem, whom one regards as a bad character, and who, finally, not only makes one unhappy, but bores one.—From "Those Barren Leaves," by Aldous Huxley.

## Made Name Glorious

A world-famous battle was fought at Thermopylae in northern Greece on August 7, 8 and 9, 480 B. C., between three hundred Spartans and seven hundred Thessalians, commanded by Leonidas and the entire Persian host. For four days Leonidas and his band held the pass of Thermopylae against the invaders, at the end of which time Ephialtes, a Trachinian, led the Persians over the mountains by a secret path to the rear of the Greeks, who were thus placed between two hostile armies and were finally cut to pieces. One Greek only escaped, and he is said to have been loaded with reproaches for having fled.—Kansas City Star.

## Balance Your Diet

The balanced diet is the healthy one and contains all three of the important vitamins. The principal food value of bread and meat lies in their protein content but they are low in vitamins B and C, and if you would be sure of more balanced rations insuring plenty of each essential, use the citrus fruits often. The juice of the grapefruit has a high content of vitamins B and C that provide the proper amount of