

THIS WEEK

By ARTHUR BRISBANE

- A Courageous Irishman
- A Hollow Magnet
- A Variegated Climate
- More Airplanes Needed

A real fighting Irishman has come to America. William Thomas Cosgrave, president of the Irish Free state. Diffident, keen light blue eyes, soft voice, iron will and a lion's courage. That is a picture of the Irish president, for whom fear does not exist, not even the only fear admitted by his relatives, the Celtic chiefs of Gaul, who admitted that they feared one thing, that the sky might fall on them.

If you asked, "Can nothing be more powerful than something?" you would get no serious answer.

But how do you explain this fact, announced by German science and proved by convincing experiment? A hollow magnet is more powerful than a solid magnet.

The absence of magnetized metal and physics, now that atomic construction and the horrible power and speed of the tiny electrons have been added to human knowledge. But that hollow magnet news is a thing to puzzle science.

A. D. Lasker, who ran the shipping board, once a young, frightfully energetic boy, sitting in the outside of Lord & Thomas in Chicago, now even more frightfully energetic, sits in the inside office and owns the place.

He and his wife have just given a million dollars to Chicago University to study the "causes, nature and prevention of degenerative diseases."

Within three hundred years, the average life has increased from thirty to sixty years, but a man of fifty has very little better chance of life than a man of that age one hundred years ago.

Lasker wisely gives money to find out why it is that human beings after fifty break down so quickly.

If the scientists will let him, Lasker should use some of his money investigating suggestions that medical science would call "all nonsense." And nonsense is what the doctors called the theories of Pasteur, who taught them more than they ever knew before.

Michael J. Fitch, 18 years old, touched a live wire carrying 5,000 volts, and according to doctors, was "dead for half an hour." Quick action by firemen brought the boy back to life.

At first his mind wandered. Then he recognized friends, knew his own name, who he was and what he had been doing in the previous 18 years.

The question arises, does the same thing happen to all of us, after we have been dead a long time, perhaps, as one earnest clergyman suggests, as long as a billion years, waiting for the world to end and Gabriel to summon us?

We have a variegated climate, dogs pulling sleds over Alaska's ice, ladies and their friends lying half-naked on the sands of Florida, California and the Gulf states.

And the thermometer does not tell everything about weather. We shiver and growl at 14 above zero, while Donald McMillan, Arctic explorer, sent word through radio that he is quite comfortable at Bowdoin, Labrador, with the temperature 35 below zero.

It depends on humidity, elevation, ozone and other things probably of which we know nothing.

A dispatch from Nicaragua says Sandino, the rebel bandit who killed some of our marines, has been killed by a bomb from one of our air. The report was erroneous, but it should teach the Nicaraguan rebels that they have no more chance against United States flying machines than a rabbit has against eagles. That is satisfactory so far as our Nicaragua fight goes.

But the president, congress and army and navy departments should remember that several countries in Europe and at least one in Asia exceed us so greatly in air power that they could do to us, if they chose, what we have done to Sandino.

We need fighting airplanes, not merely a sample force of the Nicaragua size.

The emperor of Japan sets an example in economy—carries a \$5 watch, cultivates his own rice field. That would surprise his great great grandfather. That Mikado, by lifting a finger, could chop off anybody's head, and he did.

She Wasn't Telling

Conductor: "How old are you, little girl?"

Professor's Daughter: "If you don't object, I'll pay my full fare and keep my own statistics."

It always makes me laugh. So wonderful a treat. To see an athlete run a mile And only move two feet.

Bachelor: "Yes, the world's a gloomy old prison."

Amorous Spinster: "That's because you're in solitary confinement."

SPREAD OF CHESTNUT BLIGHT CONTINUES IN SOUTHERN AREA

The chestnut blight is continuing its rapid spread in the southern states, the United States department of agriculture warns, advising owners of chestnut timber to consider carefully their salvage operations, particularly in regard to the smaller trees suitable for poles and for manufacture of tannic acid. The bureau of plant industry and its cooperating reporters made observations in 1927 to determine the extension of the blight, and find no reason to anticipate any abatement of the spread and increase of this ravenous pest. It is expected that within the next ten years the blight will kill most of the chestnut timber in the Southern Appalachian region.

All of the important chestnut-producing counties of Virginia except 14 in the southwestern corner of the state have 80 per cent or more of the chestnut trees infected or killed by the blight. Twenty-one counties of West Virginia, seven of North Carolina, 2 of South Carolina and two of Georgia, are in the same condition. Of the remaining counties with extensive chestnut growth in the above states and in Tennessee and Kentucky, 69 have from 30 to 79 per cent of the chestnut trees infected; 62 have 10 to 29 per cent infected, and 23 have less than 10 per cent.

At the rate of killing in different parts of the same region, the department advises all owners to ascertain the present condition of their chestnut, especially if it is suitable for poles. Some large pole buying companies discriminate against poles cut from badly blighted trees, and most of them will not accept those cut from trees killed by the blight. Consequently, many owners have failed to cut before the blight has seriously attacked or killed their trees are suffering considerable losses. At the present time many stands suitable for poles should be cut promptly to prevent loss, while others can be left for several years without danger.

Stands of chestnut for lumber need not be marketed so quickly, because killing does not decrease the value of these trees so rapidly as it does trees suitable for poles. The blight fungus, itself, does not decrease the strength of the wood but decay-producing fungi, which enter the wood immediately after the death of the tree, decay the bark and the sapwood in a few years. Checks, which begin shortly after the bark falls, deepen, and cause considerable loss in sawed products. Chestnut trees can be used for tannic acid extract wood for 20 years or more after death. However, their volume is reduced, within a few years after death, by the decay of the bark and most of the sapwood. This loss is especially heavy in chestnut of small size.

As the present low prices of the various chestnut products make it unprofitable under some circumstances to cut and market chestnut, each owner should consider carefully his salvage operations.

WOMAN HANGED FOR PART IN PLOT ON LINCOLN

A woman was executed as one of the conspirators in the plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln, according to the claim of Lloyd Lewis in the Liberty Magazine.

"Ever since the United States army hanged Mrs. Mary E. Surratt with the three most important male conspirators then alive, on July 9, 1865, the mystery as to her real guilt has been abroad," writes Lewis. "The evidence against her was circumstantial."

"Louis J. Weichmann, living in the lodging house kept by Mrs. Surratt in Washington, where the Lincoln conspirators hatched their plot, came bravely forward at the trial, testifying that Mrs. Surratt had aided John Wilkes Booth in his scheme and in his escape."

"The boy Weichmann had told things on the witness stand that fixed the noose about the woman's neck. If he had told the truth she was as guilty as any of the men who died with her. If he lied she was innocent."

"It was about this case that Weichmann wanted to testify again when he lay dying in 1902."

"He testified again and died. His sister folded up the paper and put it away. Their brother had wanted silence for himself! Let silence keep his last words, too."

"Time, however, eases hurts, and the other day, sitting in the room where he had died, out in the west end of Anderson, Ind., these two aged women told me their brother's story."

One of the things the author learned was that Weichmann, on his deathbed, asked his sisters to get a pen and paper and told them to write: "June 2, 1902. This is to certify that every word I gave in evidence of the assassination trial was absolutely true; and now I am about to die and with love I recommend myself to all true-loving people."

Nell: "Say, does Harold know how to drive?"

Mell: "Does he? Say, he hit a deputy sheriff this afternoon that everybody else has been trying to hit for months without succeeding."

"I just cleaned up thirty thousand bones on my land."

"Oil?"

"No; graveyard."

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