Three months THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1908.

MORE HARM THAN GOOD IN THIS. The purpose of the President in the creation of the country life commisand "mountain whites" of the South co-operation. When a scientific goverament official, as Dr. C. W. Stiles, who knows his business, comes to us and points out where health conditions are not ideal and tells us how they may be improved, he is entitled to respectful attention and to thanks. but it is another matter when we are called upon to listen to theorists who come with superior airs and in a spirit of compassion. We reproduce a part of a Washington dis-

"Whatever aid or influence the national mothers' congress can render towards the mothers congress can render towards the amelioration of Southern rural life conditions was to-day pledged by its president, Mrs. Frederick L. Schoff, of Philadelphia, to the country life commission, at a hear-tree life to the life of the life of

patch of yesterday morning:

to the country like commission, at a hearing given by the latter organization at
the Department of Agriculture.

"Mrs. Schoff appeared with other members of the mothers' congress, to offer
the active co-operation of their organization in the movement to better the conditions of the bome life, particularly the tions of the home life, particularly the social conditions of the average country home in the South, and to teach modern methods of cooking."

The Observer for one resents such offers as this—and also this from the same dispatch:

"Dr. L. H. Knapp, in charge of the Department of Agriculture's farm demon-stration work in the South, advanced three schemes for the betterment of rural conditions in Southern States. se of the most important steps in this uplift work, said Dr. Knapp, is to help the Southern farmer get out of debt, and I might say that he is less in debt than he was five years ago. Secondly, I would revolutionize their homes, and third. I would take over their schools and

"Take over their schools and readjust them!" Not if we know it, This with the proposition to "revolutionize" our homes, is more offensive than the suggestion of "taking over" our kitchens and, in the name of a higher civilization, teaching our women cookery.

There may be a place in our national economy for the country life commission; when it was appointed we thought and said so; but it is not to be found by heeding the advice it ard in Washington Tuesday. That is but to set the hair on us and cause us to wash our hands of the whole business if it is persisted in.

SOME DEATH-RATE FIGURES.

An Albany dispatch to The New York Times shows the death rate in New York State to be 17.1, as against an average for the country of 16.1. It is the metropolitan district which runs the figure up above the average. Of States for which reliable estimates are available only Rhode Island and California have a higher rate than New York. Among foreign countries old at thirty-too old, perhaps, for brought into comparison Hungary, 14.5. is lowest.

The reader will recall that Mayor death rates of Southern States, with their large negro populations, below even the figures here given for Norway-and we may mention, incidentally, that in Norway and other Scandinavian countries average human life is longer by many years than in the United States or the world at large. Mr. Rhett made the death over 13 and the death rate for North Carolina only 10. As we have said once before, these figures are extremely good to look at, but they are entirely too good to be true.

The St Louis Post-Dispatch says that "a recent White House reference to a certain distinguished man's "fool brother in Cincinnati" is said to have caused a coolness between the President and the President-elect." References to such an alleged coolfrequent within the past week. This, morning saying that this statement however, is the first explanation of it we have seen

And so Prince Henry of Prussia, der Kaiser's brudder, already known and liked in this country as a fine fellow, will visit us with a squadron next year. With him will be Prince Adolbert of Prussia, one of der Kalser's sons, also a fine fellow. Goot!

Saffors may the Sargasso sea, that half-real, half-mythical whirlpool of seaweed, has disappeared. But at last accounts the Gulf Stream was still in business, we are more than thankful to say.

Christmas falling on Friday this year, the merchants of most cities will close for part or all of Saturday besides. And this course we nd as an excellent example.

Taff's conduct in holding a of winter-capital-elect at Augusdoes a lot to make it appear that oth is gradually getting back

Charleston harbor will admit any American naval vessel now in commission. Charleston, as we have remarked with neighborly satisfaction more than once before, has one of the \$1.00 finest and deepest harbors on any of the three American coasts.

These facts about Charleston havbor we assumed to be so well known, especially to the authorities whose word goes in such matters, that we have not taken seriously a statement in an Augusta dispatch which represented the Navy Department at sion was a worthy one, no doubt, and Washington as hesitating whether the the eleven graduates, must afford the body is capable of contributing warships should call at Charleston for great encouragement and satisfaction much to the objects in view, but it Mr. Taft on his Panama trip "bewill not do this by giving too patient cause there is not enough water over ear to that element of philanthro- the bar at the harbor of Charleston, pists who feel sorry for the "natives" S. C., to carry Mr. Taft over should he persist in his plan of sailing from have benevolent, impracticable that port." But The Charleston News and patronizing schemes to propose and Courier takes that Augusta statefor their "uplift." If the commis- ment very much to heart. The News sion chimes in with the spirit of some and Courier does not believe that Mr. of those to whom it gives hearing it Taft can be diverted from his purwill disgust this section and repel its pose by any such misrepresentations or that the Navy Department ever expressed an opinion so far wide of the known facts, but, jealous for the good name of its port, it feels resentment, none the less. "The miserable part of this whole business," it says, "is that some of our contemporaries prefer for some reason to misrepresent Charleston even when they know that they are doing so. We do not blame The Savannah News and The Augusta Chronicle so much for their course-they could not be expected to do anything else; but we are grieved beyond measure that The Charlotte Observer should join them in their campaign of falsehood and defamation about the port of Charles-

> The motive for the "misrepresentation," so far as The Obsetver's share goes, is found stated above. And we promise that never again, unless under extreme provocation, shall we make a moment's jest of the sacred bar of Charleston.

A QUESTION NOT ANSWERED.

"What is old age? is a question," says The Montgomery Advertiser. "that is often asked, and which will be differently answered from different points of view. To the child of ten or under, fifty years seems old age. To the strong, healthy person of fifty seventy-five would be looked on as marking an old person, but if one is healthy at seventy-five what does that one consider old age? Recently out in Kansas a man who had just passed the seventy-five mark was buried and those who stood around the grave passed the remark that the infirmities of old age had taken him from the earth, but they were interrupted by the remark from one of the mourners that his age was not hurting him any. The speaker was the dead man's father, who had nearly reached the century mark." A man is as old as he feels; a woman as old as she looks, is familiar saying; or otherwise, a man is as old as his arteries. It is quite true, as our Montgomery contemporary says, that age is differently regarded, dependent upon the age of the person having the subject in contemplation. There was once a man of forty who was shocked by hearing a boy of twenty refer to another man of forty as "that old man." It had not before occurred to him that any one could consider him an "old man" and yet he had just heard one of his age so spoken of. A prize-fighter is his business; and the same thing is with 26.2, is highest and Norway, with probably true of a baseball or football player. Young men who are employes are apt to exaggerate infirmity Rhett, of Charleston, estimated the in others older than themselves or to imagine it where it does not exist. Recently a man applied to a young employer for a position and was asked his age. He answered that he was thirty-eight, "You are too old," was the quick rejoinder, and yet the position applied for was not one calling for the exercise of great physical exertion or demanding special activirate for South Carolina only a little ty. So, after all, "What is old age?" depends upon the point of view.

We regret that The Charleston News and Courier is fretted at The Ob server, along with other papers, for having published an Associated Press dispatch Monday morning to the effect that the North Carolina and Montana will not carry Mr. Taft from Charleston to Panama for the reason that the water is not deep enough on the bar to admit of their sure crossing. It is true that a later message ness as is here mentioned have been came from Washington the same was not substantiated and directing that the original dispatch be "killed," but this was not until after the first edition of the morning paper had been printed and the editorial office indeed did not know of the "kill" message until last night. The News and Courier when in cooler blood will revise its opinion that there was purpose in the publication here to do Charleston injury.

> Consoled by the reflection that the member of the company slain had been born in Virginia, The Petersburg Index-Appeal forbears all opposition to North Carolina's firstness at Bethel. We are exceedingly gratified to find The Index-Appeal right-minded on this important subject. A little later on, if it manifests a desire for light, we may take up the matter of its conversion in regard to North Carolina's lastness at Appomattox.

The Richmond Journal is "still waiting patiently to hear the announcement of a cabinet appointment from Virginia or North Carolina."

Anyhow, one, and that the most iniportent of all, has been anno

HARLESTON'S DEEP HARBOR. THE BARIUM SPRINGS ANNUAL There is no doubt whatever in our mind that the big armored cruisers philet, the Second Annual of the North Carolina and Montana can get Alumni Association of the Presbyteever the bar at Charleston with a good rian Orphans' Home at Barium margin for safety. We have entirely Springs, 1908, and it is a pamphlet reliable information showing that which any one may read with interest. The frontisplece is a fine picture of Mr. Geo. W. Watts, of Durham, and the tasteful dedication is to him. The officers of the alumni assoclation are Ovid Pullen, president; Clinton Powell, vice president; Dunean McLean, secretary and treasurer; and the staff of the Annual are Thornwell Gibson, editor-in-chief; Elizabeth Powell, Florence Bradford and Dan Carter, associates; and J. Oscar Mann, business manager. The record of the class of 1908, Illustrated with a well-executed out of each of to all the friends of and believers in this great work. We are copying it herewith for its intrinsic interest: "Austin, Myrtie-Entered Barium 1996, from Durham. She is now studying at the State Normal College, Greensboro. "Austin, Colline-Entered Barium 1996, from Durham. She is also taking the course at the State Normal College, Greensboro.

Deston, Herbert-Entered Barlun 1808, from Morganton. He is now working at Charlotte, in the Selwyn Hotel. He in-tends to take a college course later. "Pope, Martha—Entered Barium 1901. "Pope, Martha-Entered Barium 1901, from Mint Hill. She is now living near burg schools.
"Hoover, Melissa-Entered Springs 1900, from Harrison. Melissa-Entered

llege at Red Springs Seminary, Red 'Martin, Margaret-Entered Barlum 1903, from Carbonton. She is also attend-ing the State Normal College, Greens-"McLean, Lochamy-Entered Barium

"Fite. Annie-Entered Barium 1899, from

Belmont. She is at the State Normal College, Greensboro. "Sossaman, Grace-Entered Barium 1900,

Edna Douglass-Entered Barium 1899.

from Mount Mourne. She is now studying at the State Normal College, Greensboro. Eight of the graduates, it is seen, are aftending institutions of higher instruction and three have lucrative employment. The personal notes concerning graduates of years past show records of endeavor, on their own accounts, of boys and girls engaged in different lines of employment. A glance at the pages of this Annual will strengthen the confidence of all who believe in the orphanages as humanitarian institutions and for their practical value to the State in turning ut workers and State-builders. Every dollar contributed to them yields returns an hundred fold and it is the glory of North Carolina that in its many institutions of this character it cares for, educates and prepares for of the orphan children of the people. think on these things.

DOWNER-HERVY.

Day—Miss Elizabeth Francisco Miss Elizabeth Frances Downer and chief engineer of the concern. Mr. W. H. Hervey will be united in

home of the former in Raleigh bride will leave this afternoon for the Miss Dower, who is from York, has been in Charlotte for four seasons, having occupied the respon-sible position of head trimmer at Ivey's store. She is an accomplished, vivacious and attractive lady, to whose harm tribute is paid by the number of her friends. Mr. Hervey has been of her friends. Mr. Hervey has been a resident of Charlotte for about two

years, having been a clerk at the Cen-tral Hotel. He has lately taken a position to travel for the American Crockery Company, with headquarters at Greensboro. in this and other towns. Their home appealed. Baker went to jail, being will be in Raleigh, his headquarters remaining at Charlotte while he is on the road.

TOOK BOOFE BY FORCE.

Lively Episode Near the Southern Station Last Night—Negro Cut and Robbed of Gallon Jug.

"Assault and robbery." These be strong words and ominous. That they carry with them no light penalty may be realized by Richard Gaston, a young negro man of about 20 years. The charge is the sequel to his in-dulgence of a mad desire for a jug of intoxicating liquid in the hands of Jesse Moss, a colored boy of about 16. The assault alleged occurred last night after 11 o'clock near the Southern Railway passenger station. As a result Gaston is a prisoner, full of liquor and cocaine, and most is a patient at his home on Middle street, badly cut about the shoulder, where his assailant did execution with

a knife.

Both the negroes had been to Salisbury. The younger returned with a gallon jug and a half-gallon jug. every available inch of whose interior had been put to good use. Soon after the passengers left the train the older sprang furiously on the younger, cut him up and skipped out with the larger jug. He did not have it when arrested, but at least one witness asw affair and two others saw him making off with his precious h Gaston is said to have been on the

gang frequently. THE CHRISTMAS OBSERVER.

The Christmas issue of The Char lotte Observer came Sunday and was in every respect a good one, up to the standard set by The Observer in former years.—Concord Tribune.

The Charlotte Observer's Christman The Charlotte Observer's Christmas edition, which appeared Sunday, was everything to have been expected of that progressive publication, which never falls to measure up to the high standard established when the present owners took charge. The material for this number was prepared largely by members of The Observer staff and regular contributors to that paper and sil gives proof that we need not leave North Carolina for talent in the fields of fiction and poetry. Our contemporary should feel proud of has achievement.—Ballsbury Post.

Michienburgers.

A mighty legal hattling whose presence could be noted at a distance by the thunder of the cannonading was waged in the office of Squire H. C. Severs in the court house yesterday. From 3 o'clock until 5 sounded the clash of steel against steel in closer hand-to-hand engagements. Bang-a-lang-lang clattered the swift, bunched clamor of the riot guns. In the meantime two pairs of lawyers

bunched clamor of the riet guns. In
the meantime two pairs of lawyers
were making it warm, each for the
other and defense and prosecution
suffered alternate thrills of joy and
pangs of mortification as the charging
broadsides of grape mowed down a
seemingly unconquerably enemy
which died but to live again.

It was all the outgrowth of a difficulty between well-known people in
the upper part of the county, in the
neighborhood of Croft. The defendants were Messus. Charjes and Silas
Davis, indicted on the charge of an
assault with deadly weapon, the proscuting witness being Mr. Lester
Cathey, of the same section. The
origin of the trouble was have been
in some misunderstanding about busness relations between the two in some misunderstanding about business relations between the two Daviess and Cathey and another who was in a way associated with him in the making of brick. The other's name is Smith. Credit had been extended to the two by the defendants in this action. They had also allowed Cathey and Smith to make brick on Siles Davier bases and make or set. on Silas Davis' place and means of ingress and egress had been provided for, a, gate having been built. When the trouble arose, the brick men were forbidden to come upon the land of Davis. This was disregarded and on the morning of December 18th about dawn. Charles and Silas Davis station-ed themselves at a convenient place and when Cathey came there, it was stated by him, that Silas pointed the double-barreled shotgun which he had at him and forbad him to prowhich he 1899, from Vass. He is now living with had at him and forbad him to pro-Dr. Bingham at Mebane, where he is at-tending school. He was president of his the colleguy and at the end of it Cathey was lying on the ground and one of the brothers was sitting on him. exhibited a scar on his head to

court. A pair of knucks was found in the pocket of Silas Davis. Boyd the last three years she was at Barium. She is now attending the Statesville Female College.

"Beartha Beatty—Was in the Home when it was at Charlotte, 1899. She has always been the 'Home's baby.' She is now living in Charlotte, where she has a now living in Charlotte, where she has a equired of the defendants.

BIG SUPPLY OF POWER.

Southern Power Company Will Short-ly Offer Production of Another Large Electric Development to the Trade—Total Capacity to Be 110,--Total Capacity to Be 110,-900 Horse-Power.

Hydro-electric power to the extent 40,000 horse-power from the development of the Southern Power Company at Rocky Creek station will be available within a few weeks and will immediately be offered to The work at the Ninety-Nine islands station which will produce 18,-000 horse-power is also being pushed. Mr. B. H. Hardaway, a contractor of olumbus, Ga., having force of hands at work there in order to have that evelopment completed just as rapidly as possible. His contract to do this vork amounts to \$650,000.

So great has been the demand with n the last few months for electric lives of usefulness so many hundreds power from the cotton manufacturing trade that the Southern Power Com-It is well at this blessed season to pany is concentrating its forces to have all supplies in immediate anticipation available as early as the work can be done. This accounts for letting the contract for the Ninety-Nine Islands development to an individual Popular Couple to Wed at Noon To-Day—Miss Elizabeth Frances past been done under the immediate supervision of Mr. W. S. Lee, Jr.,

Practically the entire output of the marriage at high noon to-day in St. plants now in operation and those which will produce power within the Peter's Episcopal church, Rev. Harris new 12 months has been sold ahead. Mallinckrodt being the officiating The capacity of the company when all minister. This announcement will be these stations are set to work will be of interest to numerous friends of in the neighborhood of 110,000 horseboth, no previous announcement of will go to the cotton mills in piedtheir engagement having been made mont Carolina, covering a territory There will be no attendants and only from Greensboro on the north Greenville, S. C., on the south. Other intimate friends will be present on the happy occasion. Mr. Hervey and stations thereafter will be developed as the demand for power increases,

A MORNING WITH RECORDER.

Young White Men Fined Heavily For Disorderly Conduct—Ernest Mil-ler's Right to Carry Pistol is As-serted and Challenged.

Fines of \$15 and costs were osed on Sam Alexander, M. C. Baker, Blake and Paul Carpenter, the young white men who conducted themselves in a disorderly manner in the de has lately taken a light district, a la the Atlanta ivel for the American mayorally nominee. They are from pany, with headquarters an out-of-town place and came to He has many friends Charlotte to see the sights. Alexander

located contrary to the requirements of the city ordinance at the Southern.
The question of whether Ernest
Miller, colored, has a right to lug a
pistol about with him concealed, in his pool room, was passed up to the Superior Court. He is the overseer and it was contended that the law gives him the right. The idea of a man running a peol room with a gun years.

favorably.

The recorder dismissed the charge brought by Tom Saunders, boller-washer at the Southern and a well-washer at the southern at the sout known local character, against Jim McArthur, colored, who works at the same place. Tom charged him with same place. Tom charged his stealing about \$8 from him.

"Cherokee For Craig" Man Here.

Mr. Marshall W. Bell, of the Murphy bar, spent last night at the Central. Mr. Bell was a delegate to the State Democratic convention last summer and says that he has not yet made good the sleep which he lost during that memorable weeks, when he cast the solid Cherokee county vote , "Four for Craig," no less than a million times. Mr. Bell was one of the censpicuous visitors on that not-to-be-forgotten occasion.

Messrs. Will Harris and T. M. Mc-Connell and Mr. Rossick were elected to the eldership of the congregation of the First Associate Reformed Preabyterian church at a recent congregation members of the session to all the places made vacant by the recent withdrawal from the church of several of the prominent elders, who were accompanied by a number of deacons and many individual members.

Mayor O. B. Eaton, of Winston, dur-ing his visit to the city at the re-ent Municipal Convention, was so leased with the system of Reeping he records in the office of the mayor

The kindergarten apartments Miss Mary Catherine Thomson at residence of Mrs. Helen T. Hui No. 400 East avenue, presented animated picture yesterday after on the octation of the Chrise entertainment and tree. An slabe programme, combining variety interest, was given by the purity interest, was given by the distributer gifts from the tree, which tained many things made by children themselves, fashioned at ward in different forms by the teacher. Parents and pupils with the opportunity. Following the programme:

"Good News on Christmas Morning." "O, Clap, Clap the Hands." "The First Christmas Eve." Vinton Liddell. "Some Little Birdies One Wintry Day." Terry Bland. Carol Children.
"When Stars of Christmas Shine." Calvine Scott. "If You Should See a Big Green Tree."

"Jolly Old St. Nicholas." "Sing a Song of caristman."

Edith Glichrist.
"Well, Well, Did You Ever?" Luther's Cradle Hymn. "I Thought I Had Two Kitty Kins." Rutledge Dudley.
"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." Williamson Bradford.
"Then Let the Holly Red be Hung."

Margaret Eddy. "T'd Like to Visit Santa Ciaus." Anthony Eddy. "Merry, Merry Christmas Bells." "Old Santa Claus Puts on His Cap." Clark Smith. Christmas Star.

"The Polka Dots." Hattie Dudley. Why Do Bells or Christmas Ring?" Laura Smith. 'Oh, Glory, Glory, Glory." Cecil Gilchrist. There are Trees of Many Sizes." Catherine Carmichael. Christmas Story."

George Cramer. 'A Merry, Merry Christmas, All." MUCH SHIPMENT OF WHISKEY.

Preparatory to Advent of State-Wide Prohibition the Morally Stunted Are Getting in Large Supplies. It is said the shipment of whiskey to various points where trains will stop, including towns large, small and even young villages, is enormous. The extent of the sale of intoxicants at this time is probably due to the approaching advent of the reign of State-wide prohibition, which begins January 1st. Those whose custom has been to imbibe a little of the much-legislated-against article are not willing to risk an entrance into

not willing to risk an entrance into the new order of things without having a supply close at hand.

The reports received here are to the effect that trains are stopping at every little station to unload great quantities of whiskey. It is not coming in pints and quarts, but by the gallon and in vessels of various dimensions. A Charlotte man declares that in one of Mecklenburg's little towns the other day about 25 callons were unloaded and distributed allons were unloaded and distributed to its rightful owners. It is not far from one section of the county that deem't believe unanimously by any means in prohibition. This is alleged to be a sample of the business which the railroads are now doing. Many thousands all over the State voted in favor of whiskey at the late election on the subject and many of these are not allowing the opportunity of supplying themselves to pass by. The demand is great, but the supply is equal to the emergency from all that can be heard. North Carolina and Virginia cities wherein saloons have been stationed are now having the greatest sale in their hytory.

POP-STICKS ALLOWED.

After 8 O'clock To-Night the Boys Will Begin Their Fun—Lasts Through To-Morrow Night,

After a conference yesterday among the city officials it was agreed to al-iow the children to have their Christmas fun by means of pop-sticks After 8 o'clock to-night and through-After 8 o'clock to-night and through-out the entirety of to-morrow and to-morrow night the noise will be legiti-mate. Some of the merchants re-quested that the hour of beginning the bedlam be postponed until 10 o'clock to-night in the interest of business, but the number of petitions for an earlier hour and the recol-lection on the part of the city fathers of the time when they themselves were boys militated against the later hour suggested.

hour suggested.
The law applying to the placing of explosives on the street car tracks is not made invalid by the ruling and those found guilty of this sort of an those found guilty of this sort of an act subject themselves to the unpleasantness of an arrest. And not until 8 o'clock to-night, be it remembered, does the law now on the city attaute book against the popping of explosives become null and void, according to yesterday's action of the city that are that, well it will be lawful but awful.

TWO ALARMS LAST NIGHT.

able Confusion—No Damage Done.
Someone passing by the south graded school last night a little before 10 o'clock observed the flickering fames dancing on the window panes in one of the rooms upstairs and forthwith turned in an alarm from Box 28 thinking that the building was aftre. The department turned out in double quick time, making the long run in splendid style, but there was nothing doing. A hasty investigation disclosed the fact that some careless person had left a stove door open in which a brisk fire was burning and that was all.

The firemen had hardly gotten back to their stations when an alarm came im from Box 26. Before the men could reach the scene of the new trouble, they were met and turned back, the fire having been extinguished by those who discovered it.

Death of Little Lucile Vanderburg Mr. and Mra. A. D. Vanderburg.
Mr. and Mra. A. D. Vanderburg.
have the sympathy of their friefids in
the death of their little daughter.
Lucile, who died yesterday afternoon
about 6 o'clock at the age of ten
months. The little one had been in
feeble health all her short life. The
funeral will probably be conducted
some time to-day from the residence,
No. 1821 East Tenth street.

To-hight at 8 o'clock in the Sund hoot room of Tryon Street Method much will be given the entertal end which was first planned freeday night, but which was poured on account of the entremand weather. The admission will conts for adults and 15 on a charten and the entertainment of t



GLESS TILL WE CLOSE TO-NGH O'CLOCK

Since we can't count the checks made tonight, we extend the guessing till we close.

See Doll in Show Window

Any little girl under 10 years can have one guess, and the nearest to how many checks our salespeople make to-day gets that

Big \$15 Dressed Doll

Those out of town can mail their guesses. All write name, address and guess on a piece of paper and drop in a box just inside either store.

Any Little Girl Under 10 Years Can Guess

Look in our Sunday's ad for lucky child. No time to write ads. We are awful busy. Come-we've got what you want.

All Customers Do This

and you'll save lots of worry to yourselves and save the delivery boys from being out till possibly 3 o'clock:

Just take all the packages you can with you and you'll be sure to get them just when you need them.

Those who can't take, be patient with us and we'll deliver them, though it may be very late.

Thanks to One and All ,and a Merry Christ-

