

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER.

London Pays Dearly for Its Days of Fog

The infinite variety of English weather has no worse plague than fog. It is said, and apart from the discomfort caused the actual loss suffered by the community through the fog is said to be immense. The London Nation and Athenaeum quotes the "Smokes Abatement Society" as putting the figure at \$5,000,000 for one day, and this weekly observes, according to the Literary Digest:

"This may be an excessive estimate, but there can be no doubt that it would pay the nation to spend a great deal of money to remedy the evil, especially when we remember that even on fogless days we allow sunlight of its finite value to be intercepted by the pall of smoke which overhangs our great towns.

"The climax of absurdity is reached when we have to organize special sunlight treatment, in some cases, with rays artificially generated, in order to cure diseases caused by this unnatural darkness. The classic instance of Pittsburgh proves that the evil can be remedied once a community is really alive to its seriousness.

"There are considerable difficulties to be faced, of which the most difficult to deal with would almost certainly be that incorrigible offender, proud in evil doing, the domestic fire; but there are few social reforms which would more quickly produce a rich harvest in increased health and happiness for the ordinary citizen."

Method of Obtaining New Plant From Old

A simple method of propagating the rubber plant is by mossing. A branch is selected with ripe wood, or in the case of a lanky old plant with a long, bare stem the top may be rooted and cut off, in either case making use of a cluster of leaves that will make a well-shaped young plant.

Make a slanting cut upward half way through the stem with a sharp knife. Slip a match or other small stick to hold the wound open. Then wrap moss around it. You can get a little sphagnum moss from any florist or seedman. It should make a knob about as big as one's fist. Tie it in place with string and keep it moist but not dripping wet. In a few weeks many new roots will have formed just above the cut. Then the moss can be removed, the stem severed at a point below the roots and the plant potted in the usual way.

The operation is best performed in a room where the temperature remains at nearly 70 degrees and where there is considerable moisture in the air; in other words, the kitchen.

Weight of Air

The poet writes of "trides light as air," and we often talk of "airy nothing," but the atmosphere which surrounds our planet and accompanies it in its journeyings through space is not so light as we often imagine. Its average pressure is 15 pounds to the square inch.

The barometer, as its name implies, is an atmosphere weigher, and on the varying weight, noted over large areas, depend our daily weather forecasts. A change of an inch in the height of the mercury column means a change of atmosphere weight of half a pound per square inch on the earth's surface, so that even a change of one-tenth of an inch in the barometer represents eighty-eight thousand tons per square mile. A change of an inch over the land area of the British Isles signifies the colossal total of considerably more than one hundred thousand million tons of air.

Weak Humanity

"Stid o' learnin' by experience," said Uncle Eben, "some of us git kind of attached to our mistakes an' go on makin' 'em."—Washington Star.

There Quickness Wins

A scientist discovers that the slowest thinkers live longest. That's the kind of a proposition that can't be proved at a busy street intersection.

Always in Danger

Jud Tunkins says even when he takes his wife's advice she's liable to tell him later he ought to have been mean enough to make up his own mind.

Effects of Praise

Praise has different effects, according to the mind it meets with; it makes a wise man modest, but a fool more arrogant, turning his weak brain steady.

Radio Helps Police

Motorcars fitted to receive, or transmit radio messages have proved of great aid to London police in the capture of automobile bandits.

Midgets United

At a wedding at Weymouth, England, recently, the groom was three feet two inches tall and his bride two inches shorter.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

Ain't It True?

"All things come to him, who waits," "Yes—including poverty and old age."

Touchy

"That fellow Jones certainly has deep feelings." "A sentimentalist, eh?" "No, a pickpocket."

A Chance Anyhow

"Darling, we may have to wait a year." She—"Never mind! We may not love each other then."

Yeah?

"She must be a bride?" "Heh?" "Dresses up to go to market."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Author! Author!

North—"Who wrote this show, anyway?" West—"Those two men in the box who are applauding."

Rather

"Are you fond of music?" "Not very, but I prefer it to popular songs."—Boston Transcript.

The Sufferers

Prue—"Don't you think she suffers from a superiority complex?" Sue—"No, her friends do."—Life.

A Ticklish Job

"Mending a broken watch must be delicate work."

"No doubt a ticklish job."

Signs

"What makes you think they're engaged?"

"She has a ring and he's broke."

His Main Attraction

"So Helen's affair with the count is off. Did she doubt his love?"

"No, his title."—Boston Transcript.

The Difference

"I knew my wife three months before I married her!"

"I knew mine a week after!"

First Question

"See the waves dancing."

"Have they any new dances this year?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

New Laid

"Wor'd a matter wid dat kid?"

"Aw, he tinks he's hard-bolled, but he ain't even poached."—Life.

Naturally

Turtle—"Are you nervous?"

Rattler—"Well, I'm easily rattled."—Detroit Free Press.

Like Tennyson's Song

Wife (having donned new party gown)—"Isn't it sweet dear?"

Hub—"Yes, sweet and low."

Might Feel It

He (2 a. m.)—"I hear a football."

She—"You're lucky if you just hear one. That's my father."

Luck

Ira—"I have only two girl enemies and they don't speak to each other."

Irene—"How fortunate!"

PROVES VANITY BOX NOT MODERN DEVICE

What is believed by experts to have been a kind of vanity box used by the women of 2,000 years ago, and a necker of solid gold, were unearthed recently on a Norwegian farm by a peasant who gave the articles to his children for playthings.

Collectors eventually heard of the discovery and induced the children to part with their ancient toys. The articles, in the judgment of the experts, date back to about 120 B. C. The ring, of artistic though barbaric design, has been placed in the museum of Christiania university, while the vanity box has been going the rounds among experts who are eager to determine if it contained a powder puff among its appurtenances, or, if not, what might have been in use to take its place in those days.

Invents New Barrow

A garden bench with wheel and handles similar to those of a wheelbarrow has been invented by an Englishwoman.

Effort Not Worth While

When some folks gits all o' de airth that they can tote away, they dunno what to do with it.—Atlanta Constitution.

His Winning Guess

A pessimist may have his faults but his ideas about fishing are generally pretty accurate.—Cornell Widow.

They're That Careful

Some philanthropists don't even let their right hands know where their left hands got it.—Muskegon Phoenix.

Reference in Advance

The prospective maid of all work was stating her terms: "I want \$15 a week paid in advance, and I don't wash nor scrub floors, nor—"

"But," began the mistress of the house feebly.

"Or work after six o'clock," went on the woman steadily, "and I want every evening off and a fine reference, and—"

"But surely the reference can wait till you leave us?" broke in the mistress, nervously.

"No, I want the letter now," returned the domestic firmly. "I've tried getting them when I leave, and I've never got a good one yet."—Minneapolis Tribune.

English at Home

"When I was cycling through England," writes R. B. W., "I started off one morning to ride from Clacton to St. Oysth. After a while I became uncertain about the road and meeting a laborer I inquired, 'Am I right for St. Oysth?' The man looked puzzled and said he never heard of any such place.

"A second wayfarer whom I asked was equally ignorant. Then came a third. This fellow scratched his head, but presently a look of comprehension dawned upon his face. 'Ay, to be sure, I have it now—it's Snosey ye mean!'" —New Haven Register.

College and University

The college has about the same relation to a university that a stifle has to the federal government—that is, as a rule, many colleges go to make a university. The term university, however, has been used loosely in the United States, sometimes applied to an institution offering non-professional instruction beyond the bachelor's degree and having affiliated professional schools.

A New Trick in the Trade.

What is apparently a new way of smuggling diamonds into this country has just been brought to light in New York. It consists of bringing the stones back from the other side in settings made in this country, the idea apparently being that, while the settings can easily be identified as of American manufacture, there is no way of knowing whether the diamonds have ever been in this country before. The game is worked either by taking the mountings over empty or set with inferior stones of the same size as those brought back. In the instance referred to, the diamonds were said to be so roughly set in the mountings as to preclude their being worn for more than a short time.

Following Orders.

A couple of drummers were walking to a small town in a feud district. They had heard stories of what happens to revenue officers and were somewhat timorous. At a turn of the road there burst into view a native with a couple of ugly dogs. He immediately began to yell: "Lie down and keep still!"

The drummers promptly stretched out flat on the muddy road. The mountaineer strode up and demanded: "What is the matter with you guys? Are you crazy?"

"You told us to lie down and keep still."

"I meant the dogs."

The New Collector.

"Rastus, how is it you have given up going to church?" asked Pastor Brown.

"Well, sah," replied Rastus, "it's dis way. I likes to take an active part, an' I used to pss de collection basket, but dey's give de job to Brothab Green, who just returned from ovah thal-ah."

"In recognition of his heroic service, I suppose?"

"No, sah. I reckon he got dat job in recognition o' his having lost one o' his hands."—Sunbeams.

Inspires Confidence

Picture postcards of a Kansas City hotel carry this message:

"This hotel fully equipped with automatic sprinklers. Statistics show loss of life has never occurred in a sprinkled building. In case of fire you may get wet, but not burned."

To one traveler that brought a wonderful thought and he wrote thereunder the following prayer: "Now I lay me down to sleep. Statistics guard my slumber deep. If I should die I'm not concerned. I may get wet but I won't get burned."—Tavern Talk.

Prevent Entrance of Dirt.

The best system is to prevent, so far as possible, the entrance of dirt into milk. This can be done best by having clean cows in clean stables, milked with clean hands, into clean, small-top pails.

Milk Essential for Calf.

It is very necessary for a young calf to get its mother's milk for the first two or three days. This milk possesses properties which stimulate the calf's stomach and starts him off on his life's journey.

PERFUMES THAT ARE MENACE TO HEALTH

Even Deadly, Sinister Scents Not Uncommon.

The tremendous craze for perfumes at the present time is, in a way, an echo of the age of King Solomon; but it is well to remember that not all scents are sweet-smelling savors.

Foreign countries abound in sinister scents of many and deadly kinds. There are trees in some of them which breathe out poison, and woe betide the traveler who is ignorant enough to rest beneath their shade!

On the hill slopes of Chili, for example, is a tree which the natives look upon as being possessed of an evil spirit. Many cases have occurred where innocent travelers have crept under its branches during the heat of the day, and paid for its shade with their lives. After resting under one of these trees for a short time, the hands and face of a traveler become swollen, as in a case of snakebite, and the surface of the skin is covered with boils.

Many visitors in the vicinity of Valparaiso have succumbed to the influence of this poisonous tree.

The trumpet flower, or datura, found in most tropical countries, although not deadly in the open air, is highly dangerous in a room. Innocent people, fascinated by its coloring and scent, take it indoors, and soon fall into a trance-like slumber, developing a deadly stupor, from which they may possibly never awake.

If the trumpet flower were brought into a sick room and left there for the night it would mean certain death for the patient. Recently, in South America, an accusation of murder was brought against a family who were said to have profited financially by the death, in their house, of a wealthy relative. Upon investigation, it was found that some trumpet flowers had got mixed with a bunch of others in a vase, which was allowed to stay in the house all night, and had actually caused the death of the relation.

Some orchids, with their strange and powerful perfume, are capable of drugging the senses and causing faintness. There are some people, too, who cannot stand the scent of roses, while others are prejudiced against the innocent-looking violet.

It is well to make quite certain that any perfume we use, or have in the house, is suited to our temperament. If the least irritation is caused by any scent it should at once be dispensed with, however beautiful it may seem to others. There are few people who do not like the scent of clove; yet, not long ago, there was a case in Zanzibar where the scent of clove was responsible for a British official's contracting an ulcerated throat, with consequent loss of voice.—The World-Wide News Service.

Long and Short Lives in Scheme of Nature

One of the most wonderful things in Nature is the manner in which things are balanced up. The long-lived things propagate their species slowly; the short-lived, rapidly. For instance, elephants, whales, tortoises and carp have been credited with lives of anything from four hundred years downward. And at the other end of the scale we find insects which have a life of hours only. Many theories have been put forward to account for these remarkable distinctions, but the one now most commonly accepted is that the slower the creature is in reaching full maturity and the less its powers of reproduction, the greater will be its average longevity or length of natural life. Nature's object in such an arrangement is fairly plain even to our limited human intelligence. For if such creatures as locusts, breeding with incredible rapidity, had themselves a life of centuries, the world would be within a little while impossible for other existence. And the same result would occur did an elephant with a life of perhaps a couple of hundred years, breed like a locust. In some way, which as yet we may not fully understand, the principle of Nature is to maintain a balance of power in our world.

Russia's Sugar Production

The production of sugar in Russia from the harvest of 1924 was originally expected to reach 30,000,000 pounds (1 pood equals 38.1 pounds), but weather conditions immediately after planting seriously impaired the plantations and greatly reduced the yield, reports Economic Life. The combined effects of intense heat followed by prolonged drought, with insect and other damages, reduced the area originally sown from 318,822 dessiatines to 272,958 dessiatines (1 dessiatine equals 2.7 acres), or 14.3 per cent. The original planted area was divided between that on which land, seed, labor and money were furnished by the factories (39,037 dessiatines) and that of individual planters who raised crops on shares, sometimes on factory-owned land.

Dick Whittington's Seal

The seal of Dick Whittington, the famous lord mayor of London, has been found on a legal document discovered among a bundle of old deeds by a London expert on parchment. In the center of the seal is a bust of a young man, endearing which is the name "Ricard Whittington," and the date 1402. An expert of the public record office said that he was confident the seal was genuine and so far as he knew, unique. It must have been the seal used by Whittington before he was knighted and received armorial bearings. He was made lord mayor first in 1397.

Traveling Presidents

Presidents who have left the confines of the United States while in office were: Roosevelt, visited the Panama Canal zone and went to the city of Panama; Taft, crossed the border into Mexico and dined with President Diaz at Juarez; Cleveland, on a fishing trip, exceeded the boundary of the United States; Wilson, peace conference in Europe; Harding, British Columbia, Canada.

Very Mild

"Did yore boy, Bearcat, and Gabe Giggery's kid have much of a fight tuder day?" asked an acquaintance.

"Nope!" returned Gabe Johnson of Rumpus Ridge. "They just blacked each other's eyes and binged each other's noses, 'stead of gittin' my gun and Gabe's bowie knife, and going at it right."—Kansas City Star.

Will Come Back for More

Landing in Quebec with only \$9 in his pocket 21 years ago, a Scotchman returned home worth \$300,000 and soon announced that he would return and double his fortune in America.

Right in His Line

A great many people who are not farmers have taken up land in western states. An old-timer rode over to the outfit of one newcomer and asked him what he had been doing before he came West.

"I was a wrestler."

"How much land have you declared on?"

"One hundred and sixty acres."

"Well, you got something to wrestle with now, bo," averred the old-timer, as he gave his steed a resounding whack.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Better Way

Mrs. Arthur Nevin, head bacteriologist of the new Tennessee Shell-shock hospital, said at a dinner in Johnson City:

"These women who go about murdering men are as stupid as they are cruel. Give me the woman who, instead of resorting in despair to a revolver, declares with a gay laugh: 'A man is like a telescope in my hands. I draw him out, see through him, and finally shoot him up.'"

Famous Throne Room to Be Reconstructed

The throne room in the palace of Menephtah, believed to have been the pharaoh of the Exodus, in which Moses warned the ruler of the plagues that would befall Egypt, will soon be reconstructed within the University of Pennsylvania museum.

The work will be carried on under the direction of Dr. Clarence S. Fisher in the new Egyptian wing of the museum. Because the throne room, or chamber, had been ruined when the royal palace was burned soon after the death of the pharaoh, and was afterward inundated by the Nile at Memphis, its reconstruction will be unusually difficult.

Gorgeously colored ornamentation that harmonized with the formality of the designs surrounded Moses when he held his conferences with Menephtah, according to Doctor Fisher.

When Moses appeared before the ruler he stood upon a slope that rose 20 inches at its greatest height at the far end of the room, where the dais stood supporting the chair of state.

"The dais was of limestone," said Doctor Fisher, "and the decoration on it was cut in low relief and colored like the floor."

Testing the Pay Envelope

A writer in a recent number of Printers Ink asks this question, in substance: "Would you rather receive \$200 a month and know you were worth more than receive \$300 with a staking conviction in your heart that by the standard of wages paid to others you were being overpaid?"

There are probably quite as many people overpaid in the business world as there are those who are underpaid. When business slumps the overpaid ones are headed for a fall; the underpaid ones keep what they get and perhaps a little more.

His Decision

"Say, what the dickens is all that yelling about, out back of the smoke-house?" demanded Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge, aroused from his doze on the porch.

"Maw was making soft soap and got her dress afire," replied Banty, one of Johnson's offspring. "She's rolling on the ground now, trying to put it out, and the children are watching her and hollering about it."

"Aw, well, if I want any dinner, reckon I'd better go and help her."—Kansas City Star.

In the Edible Class

"Yes," said the teacher, "we have several plants and flowers named with the prefix 'dog.' Of course, the 'dog-rose' and 'dog-violet' are well known to you all. Can any of you tell me others?"

For some seconds the class remained dumb. Then a bright idea illuminated the face of an urchin, and up went his hand.

"Collie flowers, Miss!"

Practical Teaching

Children's garment making is taught in a practical way at Hutchinson high school, Buffalo, N. Y. Clothing classes sew for charity organizations and children's homes. Materials are furnished by the institutions for which they work. In the second year remodeling is taught. Old garments are cleaned and ripped up, good parts are salvaged, a little skillful piecing or mending is done, combinations are made and a "new" garment evolves.

Proved

The court was lost in the maze of arguments produced by counsel for the defense, and at last the judge intervened.

"I think," he said, "it will be better if you do not pursue that matter any further. You might as well attempt to prove to the court that two and two do not make four."

"I can do that quite easily," said the lawyer, with a smile. "Two and two make twenty-two."

Growing Jute in Africa

Attempts have recently been made to introduce jute culture into South Africa, and tests made on a farm located near Hekeorspruit, Transvaal, on the railroad between Johannesburg and the Portuguese East Africa border, have shown that it is practicable to raise this crop. It is capable of cultivation in almost any soil, but is most profitable in loamy or rich clay soil mixed with sand.

Voice Runs Typewriter

A Swiss inventor claims to have perfected a machine that will type direct from the spoken words. A speed of from 90 to 100 words a minute—about as fast as the average man can dictate—is claimed for the new machine, which is operated electrically.—Popular Science Monthly.

Happy—What's That?

"She stabbed her sweetheart with a hatpin."

"Mercy, how out-of-date!"—Detroit Free Press.

The Snowshoe Glider

"Are you from the Far North?"

"No, why do you ask?"

"You dance as if you had snowshoes on."—Dartmouth Jack o' Lantern.

CATS FOR HUNTING

Nimrod Has Pack of Felines to Track Game.

Trained Like Pointers and Walt Till Masters Come Up to Shoot What They Have Found.

The variety of hounds used in this country for hunting is larger than most of us think. The best known are foxhounds, staghounds, otterhounds and harriers, but there are also beagles and basset hounds, both used in packs for hare hunting. The last named are small and short-legged, but they have wonderful noses.

Greyhounds are the fastest of all the canine tribe. Next come whippets, which seldom weigh more than twenty-five pounds. Though used principally for racing, they are also useful for running down rabbits.

In Ireland there is, or was till recently, at least one pack of weasel hounds.

"Bobby" packs are used for jackal hunting in India. These are hounds of mixed breed, but most of the old Rampur strain. They are versatile animals, being trained not only to run jackals but also to pull down black bear.

In India, too, the cheetah is used for hunting. The cheetah is one of the great cats like the leopard, but longer in the leg. It is caught wild and trained; those animals bred in captivity are useless for hunting. A cheetah has extraordinary speed and will run down any kind of deer.

In the Southern states in America most of the negroes keep "possum dogs"—yellow, bound-like animals—which are trained to hunt opossums or raccoons by night. They are plucky creatures and will even take the trail of a panther. This sort of hunting is done on foot and by night. The dog's business is to "tree" the quarry. The hunters then climb the tree after the animal, or, if this is impossible, cut the tree down.

T. G. Nimmo, the well-known American sportsman, has gone a step further than any one else, in that he has trained a pack of cats for hunting. With these he tracks not only "possum and raccoons, but also rabbits and quail.

In hunting the latter he has two fine cats which are trained like pointers and at sight or scent of the game become rigid, waiting for their master to come up and shoot what they have found for him.

These two cats, Mr. Nimmo says, will also retrieve shot birds as cleverly as any dog.—London Answers.

A Study in Legs

Ninety-nine out of every 100 girls with red hair are bowlegged.

Ninety-nine out of every 100 girls of the brunette type are knock-kneed.

The most symmetrical legs are possessed by the young women of the blonde type.

This is the conclusion of artists of Baltimore after careful study of the legs of hundreds of girls.

The young women found to be thus hampered to the eyes of the artist by physical deformities were a large number who were desirous of becoming models. For several weeks a committee of the Charcoal club, in preparation for the opening of the men's evening life class, had been examining candidates.

And out of dozens who wished to become models there was just one who came up to the requirements as to contour of limbs that were expected by the committee.—Baltimore Dispatch.

White House Built in 1800

The White House at Washington was first occupied by President John Adams in 1800, eight years having been spent in the construction of the edifice, for which the cornerstone was laid October 13, 1792, in the presence of George Washington. The choice of the thirteenth of the month for the ceremony indicates that the first President had no regard for the ancient "thirteenth" superstition. The first official function held in the White House was the New Year reception given by President Adams on January 1, 1801. When Washington was captured by the British in 1814 the White House, as well as the unfinished structure of the capitol and other government buildings, were burned. The White House was restored in 1815. The architect was an Irishman, James Hoban.

The Victim

"Yes, my 'usbahn' laid up a victim of football."

"But I didn't know he ever played the game."

"E doesn't. 'E sprained 'is larynx at the match last Saturday!"—The Passing Show (London).

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