

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER.

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## WHEN WITCH FIRES BLAZED IN EUROPE

### Nine Million Women Victims of Superstition.

It must have surprised some people to read of the Tipton case, where men were prosecuted for threatening a woman said to "cast spells." For, though belief in witchcraft is still prevalent in parts of France, most people fancied it long dead in Britain. There was a time when it was no laughing matter for any woman to possess a dark eye, a prominent tooth, or a black cat, especially if she did not get on well with her neighbors, says a writer in the Continental edition of the London Mail. But the law makes no provision today for dealing drastically with witches, nor are they any longer allowed to roast unpopular old women on the continent, as in the uncomfortable medieval dusk, when no woman was safe, and an elderly one needed to step warily.

It is hardly possible in these polite and lenient times to realize that for centuries Europe literally blazed with witch fires. Sprenger tells us that the total execution of witches in Europe must have reached the incredible figure of 9,000,000. Prague burnt 1,000,000 in one year (as did Como and Paris), and destroyed 50 in one great fire. We are told the smell of witch burning was scarcely ever out of the air, and apparently the fires were never out.

And that sort of thing went on to a lesser extent in most of the cities, for the Bible said, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live," and they had a way of reading things very literally then.

Witch-burning has gone, but superstitions still linger with us. We fling the salt over the shoulder. We touch wood—a reminder of touching the cross. We avoid the third light. We don't go under a ladder—a relic of Tyburn days. We shirk 13, and dislike starting things on Fridays.

The fact is that we still have deep in our natures, as a residue of prehistoric times, fear of unknown powers. In olden days people believed in goblins, vampires and devils, and the priests devised charms to exorcise them. The psychologist says many of our fancies originated in the fears of infancy. Buried or suppressed ideas persist in the subconscious element of the cerebral gray cells, and in later life crop up at the surface as mere reflections.

But it is unwise to seek for omens and portents and to put dependence on charms. The mind has so dominant a power over the body that if we believe a thing too strongly it may come about.

## Insects Rank Among Wonders of Nature

Insects are wonderfully constructed creatures. Any part of their structure is truly remarkable. Consider the eyes, for instance. These are of two kinds, namely simple eyes and compound eyes. The former are like "small polished lenses." The latter are divided into minute areas, or facets. Folsom says that these facets are not necessarily equal in size, for in dragon flies the dorsal facets are frequently larger than the ventral. Their number is often enormous. The common house fly has 4,000 facets to each eye; the swallow-tail butterfly may have as many as 17,000. The beetle of the genus *Mordella* has 25,000, and a hawk or sphingid night-flying moth 27,000. In most species of two-winged flies, in the wasp-like four-winged flies, and in other kinds of insects, the eyes of the male are larger and closer together than those of the female. The difference is attributed to the fact that the male is more active than the female, especially in the matter of seeking out the opposite sex. The maggots or flies which live in darkness have no eyes.

## How Wool Is Tested

Wool fibers are short and kinky. They give a characteristic sensation when drawn between the teeth, smolder when ignited, leaving an irregular lump of ash and giving off the odor of burning feathers. Wool dissolves when boiled for 15 minutes in a solution containing one tablespoonful of lye to a pint of water. Larger amounts of alkaline washing powder may be used instead of lye. This is an excellent way to detect fabrics made of both wool and cotton, as the cotton will not disappear under such treatment.

## Healthy Appetite

Seventy-two buckwheat cakes, buttered and flavored with cream, constituted a breakfast for Louis Martan, of Williamstown, Conn. Martan, who has a local reputation for wholesale eating, walked into a restaurant with a friend who had wagered that Martan could not eat 60 buckwheat cakes at one time. The friend had to pay the check, which amounted to \$4.90.—*Boston Herald.*

## Practice Continuity

The more the art of continuity is practiced, the easier it becomes. We readily form habits. When a man makes up his mind that he will not give up, he gets into his stride and proceeds just because that becomes part of his life. To be aimless is to founder; to "have nothing to do in particular" is to get nothing done. To continue in the thing that uplifts and fortifies is to gain the victory. So, get your channel and follow your chart.—*Exchange.*

## Mad as a March Hare

March is supposed to be the month when hares run the field spasmodically in all directions, hence the frequency of this phrase. As "mad as a hatter" is another common expression. It is supposed to be a corruption of "mad as an utter" when "utter" means "viper"—so "mad as a hatter" really means "venomous as a viper."—*Indianapolis Star.*

## The Artist

An artist, then, is one, who by means of some instrument, such as a picture, transmits emotion to a responsive person, or, at least, evokes some aesthetic feeling in him, though the wish to transmit such emotion need not be present. And a work of art is the vehicle of this transmission.—*Ferry Moore Turner, in "The Appreciation of Painting."*

## "When Two Strong Men Stand Face to Face"

True men recognize and respect one another, even through the mists of enmity. It is in warfare that we find the most striking illustration of that fact. Sir Frank Benson tells a delightful story of the sort which is quoted in Joseph H. Oldham's "Christianity and the Race Problem."

A British officer had been sent forward in some fighting with the Zulus, leading a contingent of men. The Zulus sent out a messenger of peace. By an unhappy blunder the British outposts shot him. The officer was greatly distressed. So he handed over the contingent to the second in command and walked straight out, unarmed, to the Zulu lines. He was led to the chief.

"I have come," he said, "to give myself up because we shot your peace messenger by mistake. It is a thing brave warriors never do. I am very sorry. To make amends I place my life in your hands; do with me as you will."

The Zulu warrior chief was silent for a moment. Then he said: "You are a man, and your people are men and the sons of men; we, too, are men. We will make peace."—*Youth's Companion.*

## Serious Work of Diver Has Humorous Moments

Diving is a very serious business, but at the same time it had its laughable moments, writes a diver in a London paper. He continues:

I remember one day when I was at the bottom of the sea an old lady asked the attendants if she could communicate with me by telephone. The permission was granted and the conversation ran something like this: "Hello! What are you doing there?" "I'm just sitting down, having a rest."

"Good gracious! What are you sitting on?"

"On some rocks."

"Oh, dear me! You are surely not sitting on those damp rocks. You'll catch an awful cold!"

Here is a laughable conversation which one of my assistants overheard on a landing-stage.

Three old ladies were standing beside a section that was being repaired, and against which was propped a builder's ladder.

I had not gone down, but was not in view, all the same. My diving dress lay nearby.

Said the first lady: "Ooh! Look at the diver's uniform. I wonder what he is doing?"

One of the other old ladies cast a glance at the ladder, then said: "Oh, I suppose he's up there repairing the roof!"

My attendants and I have a special code of signals. Three sailors, watching, asked the attendant if they might hold the life-line for a few minutes.

I happened to give a signal soon after, which they did not understand. Receiving no reply, I repeated the signal several times.

An old lady standing nearby became alarmed at the movements of the line, and ran over to the attendant in great excitement, exclaiming:

"Help! Quick, attendant, your diver wants a boat to go down and rescue him."

## Brave Woman Scientist

Walking up to a Moro datto and requesting a sample of his blood for analysis looks like a formidable job, when it is recalled that the Moros, warlike Malays with a reputation for fanatical Mohammedanism, are usually regarded as the most truculent of all the peoples of the Philippines. Yet this is what Mrs. Ella F. Grove, an American scientist, now on her way back to the United States, has done, not once, but hundreds of times. Mrs. Grove has been conducting anthropological studies based on comparative blood tests among a number of oriental races whose origins are still a riddle, under the auspices of the National Research Council and the New York hospital. In addition to her large collection of data from the Moro country, she has similar sets of facts gathered among the more tractable Philippine tribes, including the Bogobos, Igorots and Negritos.

## School Failures

That nearly 23 per cent of the first-grade pupils fail to pass to the second grade in due course is shown by an inquiry conducted by the Interior department bureau of education as to the causes of children's failures in school. Inability to measure up to the requirements in reading and arithmetic, unnecessary absences from school and lack of general physical and mental development account in great measure for this condition. Unduly large classes, placing children of widely different age and mental ability in the same class, too many interruptions to school work and lack of cooperation on the part of parents are contributing causes.

## March of Our Years

We advance in years somewhat in the manner of an invading army in a barren land; the age that we have reached, as the phrase goes, we but hold with an outpost, and still keep open our communications with the extreme rear and first beginnings of the march. There is our true base, that is not only the beginning, but the perennial spring of our faculties; and Grandfather William can retire upon occasion into the green enchanted forest of his boyhood.—*Robert Louis Stevenson.*

## Potatoes Once Cheap

In comparing potato prices, Richard Carr of Livonia, N. Y., says he remembers carting potatoes when they were sold for 11 cents a bushel. And in the fall of 1895 a man took 1,000 bushels of potatoes to Pittard to sell the lot for \$50—a nickel a bushel. But the deal did not go through and rather than take the tubers back home and store them the grower sold the entire lot for \$10—1 cent a bushel.—*Exchange.*

## A Mistake!

Didn't you see that notice which says: "Road Closed?" Cyclist (who has fallen down hole in the highway)—Yes, confound it, and I found it wide open.

## WHY Milk Is a Health Giver and a Body Builder

"Every boy should have a quart of milk a day until he has attained his growth; and every girl should have a quart of milk a day until she has weaned her last baby." Quoting one of the world's greatest scientists in nutrition, H. C. Sherman of Columbia university.

Further, we are told, if we wish to remain young and have the best health, we may well follow the practice of using a quart of milk a day throughout our adult life. Using it, mind you—not necessarily drinking it. Made into cream soups, bread, custards, puddings, scalloped with other foods, in cocoa—who cares in what way, just so long as the daily quart is there.

Occasionally, but very occasionally, indeed, we find a person who cannot take milk, even when it is cooked into or with foods. These persons are exempt, but we cannot help feeling sorry that they go through life nutritionally crippled in this way.

Why milk and why so much milk? It is the cheapest source of the needed animal muscle-building food. It is the richest of all foods in bone-building substances; lime and phosphorus.

It contains all three—or four, if there are four—vitamins, if the milk is produced by healthy, rightly fed and cared-for cows.

Milk is not a "cure all," although when it is used to replace a part of our modern white bread, meat and potato dietary, it is a "cure for much." Not every wrong can be righted by using more milk, but many of them may.

The moral of our story is to use milk if you wish the happiness of good health. Give it to children in the abundance needed to make them strong. Take a daily quart yourself. Drink it raw if it is clean and agrees with you and you like it. Boil it, if you need to. Learn to make it into attractive dishes. Spread the good news of its value.

## Why World Hails New Production of Helium

A new way of getting helium has been suggested in Germany by Dr. Kurt Peters of the Physical Technical Institute of Berlin. It is to be distilled from radioactive minerals used in various industries, and mainly from monazite sand, which is used for Welsbach mantles. Although it has been known for a long time that these minerals give off helium when heated, the gas has never been recovered commercially. Doctor Peters claims it is the largest source of helium in Germany at the present time. He estimates that a production of from 15,000 to 20,000 cubic feet is available annually.

While this amount will not be sufficient for use in dirigibles, it is expected to suffice for technical purposes. Helium has been most difficult to obtain because the United States, which is the only country in the world producing the rare gas in large quantities, has stringent export laws prohibiting its sale to foreign countries except with the sanction of the War and Navy departments.

## Why Dreams Are of Value

"Dreams," said a doctor, "are not only useful symptoms to the psychoanalyst—they are useful to us doctors, too."

"For many maladies have their own peculiar kind of dreams, and just as jaundice is denoted by a yellow skin, so heart trouble is denoted by dreams of floating and flying high above the earth."

"The neurasthenic dream of troubles, anxieties, death and failure. The consumptive have very happy dreams—revels, dancing and feasting. Those afflicted with liver complaint dream, on the other hand, of funerals, and the rheumatic dream of burns and blows and hard knocks."

## Why Rats Leave Ships

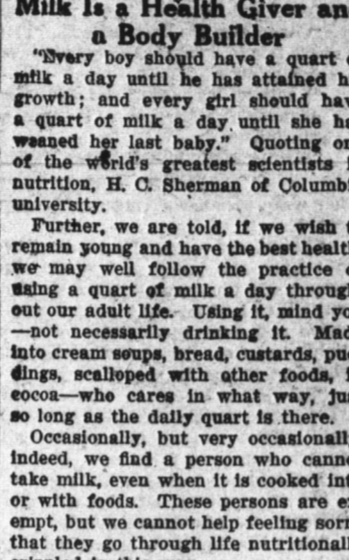
Cats desert ships, as rats are supposed to do, but for different reasons, according to the radio operator on board the Cold Harbor. He says that they leave if they do not like the galley or the cabins, and when they look over another ship as a prospective home they investigate as carefully as any newly married couple examine their first apartment. It is true that rats really desert a ship because of premonitions, or is it a sailor's superstition, of which there are many? Many tales are told of rats scuttling down the ropes when a vessel is in harbor, and the vessel going down on the next trip. But we have our doubts.—*Baltimore Sun.*

## Why It Is

"I cannot understand," mused Professor Pate, "how it is that women are almost invariably regarded as superior to men."

"Because they say they are, of course!" promptly replied old Gaulton Grimm.—*Kansas City Star.*

## THE SESQUI FROM THE AIR



An idea of the size and scope of the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition, which will be held in Philadelphia from June 1 to December 1, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence, is given in this photograph. In the foreground is the great Municipal Stadium, which seats 100,000 persons. North of the stadium can be seen two of the vast exhibition buildings. The first is the Palace of Agriculture and the second the Palace of Liberal Arts. Opposite the latter building is the big auditorium, which seats 20,000 persons on a single floor. To the left of the stadium can be seen the world famous Indian building, the Taj Mahal.

## No Partner of the Devil

One time Servais Le Roy, the illusionist, was playing in Milwaukee. He ran out of rabbits—a serious situation for any magician. Le Roy found that an old German who lived outside of the city raised rabbits. He immediately went to the farm. The rabbits were there—plenty of them—and the required number was soon bought and paid for. Le Roy was so pleased that he pulled out a pad of his personal passes and wrote out one for the farmer and his wife. The German took one look at the pass and his eye fell upon a picture of a devil that adorned the slip of paper. Then he seized the rabbits and threw the money back in Le Roy's hands. He would have nothing to do with any transaction in which the devil was concerned.—*Howard Thurston in Collier's.*

## Doctors' Heart Detective

An experimental model of the first portable electro-cardiograph, used in studying the electric currents of the heart, has recently been demonstrated. The cardiograph itself is not a new device, but never before has there been an instrument which is portable, nor one commercially developed in which vacuum tubes are used for amplifying the heart voltages.

Records of a patient's heart may be obtained now at the doctor's surgery or in the patient's home. A doctor can easily learn to operate the portable device after a few demonstrations, says a writer in *English Mechanics*, and it is expected that the apparatus will be producible at a cost and in quantities that will permit of its wide use throughout the medical profession.

## Fish Marketed by Radio

Five minutes after a fish is caught in the North sea, a man sitting in a London office, 400 miles away, decides exactly where it will be eaten. All of the trawlers belonging to a big London fishing corporation are now equipped with wireless, and a report of every big catch is flashed to the London office so that marketing machinery starts working at once. Sometimes the fish are advertised in the London market before they are on the way back to port. Fish that are rarely caught arrive just in time to be prepared and served for special occasions for which they have been booked.

## Stinging

At a dance a certain girl had made herself rather conspicuous with a young married man.

At the end of their fifth fox trot together the man's wife approached the flushed and breathless girl.

"I say, Miss Smarte," she began, "I've got a last year's costume that is really quite good. There's plenty of wear in it. Would you like to have it?"

"How dare you!" gasped the girl. "As if I would dream of using anything belonging to you!"

"I thought perhaps you might," replied the wife, coldly. "You seem anxious enough to get my husband!"

## How Buttermilk Cures

Broken bones that have stubbornly resisted all efforts to make them knit, have been found to respond to a treatment of calves' liver and buttermilk. The experiment has been carried on at Johns Hopkins hospital, in Baltimore. It is reported that literally scores of patients who have been suffering for a year or more with unknit bones have been cured and discharged after the liver and buttermilk diet.

## Stranger Than Fiction

"Restaurants," said a restaurateur, "used to depend on their kitchens. They depend on their dance floors now."

"My new dance floor, like all the latest dance floors, is suspended on air cushions, steel springs and rubber buffers. This gives it elasticity. We tune it up every few days like a piano. Springs and air cushions and rubber buffers must be kept in perfect harmony at just the right pitch. In the old days floors were polished. We iron them now. Two men with electric irons go over my floor every morning. The job takes an hour, and it gives the floor a touch that the old days knew nothing about."

## World's Hardest Luck

The scene was the circus tent where the freaks held forth. Evidently the armless wanderer had something on his mind.

"Why the preoccupied air, old chap?" asked the living skeleton. The armless wanderer sighed.

"It's this way," he said. "Here I sit, day after day, autographing cards with a pen between my toes."

"If I want a character reading from a specimen of my handwriting I am the one person in the world who can't get it. I have got to wait until a footwriting expert comes along."

The living skeleton's sympathy was profound.

## Can't Cross Vegetables

There is no danger of getting a "punky" flavor in watermelons, even if the two plants are grown in the same field. The belief that natural crossing occurs, damaging the marketability of melons, has been proved to be erroneous, Dr. E. F. Castetter of Iowa State college says. He made 250 attempts to get a cross under the most favorably controlled conditions possible, and in no case was there any success.

## Brains in Brass

The "brass brain," a device that can predict what the tides will be in any port in the world at any time, is in use in the laboratory of the coast and geodetic survey at Washington. The machine is said to do the work of 60 mathematicians. Its name is derived from the fact that practically all of its 15,000 parts are made of brass. Fifteen years were required to perfect the machine.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

## Mound Builders Distinct

The mound builders are generally believed to have been a race separate and distinct from the Indians, since there are differences in the formation of their skulls.

## Matches Always Strike

Matches which are not harmed by wetting have recently been invented by mixing the milk of rubber with the vulcanizing material and then vulcanizing it.

## Yale Richest University

The holdings of Yale university are worth over \$40,000,000, making it the world leader in the matter of college ownership of realty.

## Gets No Chance to Fly

"Riches hob wings," remarked Uncle Ezra, "but do sensible man know how to build a pretty tight coop."—*Boston Transcript.*

## Always Walks Then

The last time "the ghost walks" is when the wages of sin are collected.—*Toronto Telegram.*

## CHICKENPOX



There were reported in 1924 approximately six thousand cases of chickenpox in the State and in 1925 approximately four thousand. The death rate from this disease is very low but there are nevertheless connected with it possibilities of danger from complications.

Furthermore, because insufficiently informed persons have mistaken smallpox for chickenpox, smallpox has been spread. A better understanding of the nature and cause of the disease will reduce its prevalence and avoid frequently its complications.

The specific virus causing chickenpox has not been isolated but it has been definitely proven that such a virus does exist and that the pus from the eruption carries this germ and spreads the disease. Persons of all ages are susceptible to the disease and it is most common among children only because children have opportunities for contracting it before they reach maturity.

In the case of this disease nature is able to very promptly manufacture within the system an efficient antitoxin and the disease is seldom permitted to become serious. In some cases this, however, is not true. Usually no symptoms of illness are noted until the appearance of the eruption, which occurs in twelve to fourteen days after exposure. In these rare cases, however, it is noted that there is a general redness or flushing of the skin one or two days before the typical eruption. Where this preliminary flushing is noted the case usually proves to be unusually severe. Nature has not been able in such an individual to make an antitoxin as effective as usual.

The smallpox patient is usually feeling quite ill, perhaps, thinks he has gripped, two or three days before the eruption appears. Chickenpox eruption appears in "crops" and a well-developed case will show pox in all stages, some just beginning, while others are drying up. In smallpox all the pox appear to be the same age. Chickenpox looks as if it were on the surface of the skin and is often compared to glass beads on the skin. Smallpox is deeper in the skin. Chickenpox usually has only one pocket and the blister can be drained with one puncture. Smallpox has many pockets and requires several punctures to drain it.

Vaccination protects against smallpox. Always look for successful vaccination scars in suspicious cases.

## Solved Harem Problem

His 86 wives failed to accord him proper respect, so a Turkish aristocrat, Achram Bey, undertook to divorce the whole bunch. Finding that his threats to dissolve his harem met with strong opposition from the authorities he donned his gala robes and invited them all to a sumptuous repast. While the banquet was proceeding he surreptitiously sprinkled bella donna in the food and drink. On the following morning the 86 ladies of the harem, and Achram Bey himself, were lying dead in the banquet room.

## Famous European Canal

The Marseille-Rhone canal is a notable European project executed during the war period involving an artificial waterway 51 miles long and extending from the Rhone river at Arles to the Bay of Marseille. It is also notable in that it includes a tunnel 4 1/2 miles long which pierces the mountain ridge north of the city and affords direct access to the harbor. In addition to the tunnel there was involved a breakwater construction between Marseille and Port de Bonc.

## Why One Feels "Blue"

The scientific reasons for the common feeling known as "blue" are that during damp weather we do not perspire normally and our bodies retain the waste products which are otherwise thrown off. A nonenergetic feeling follows. Also during this kind of weather, the air does not contain an ordinary supply of oxygen. Oxygen is the body's fuel, and we cannot fully assimilate our food without a full supply. Hence the "heavy" feeling.

## Why Snakes "Rattle"

The vibrating of the snake's tail was a common characteristic of most snakes before the rattlesnake evolved from the common ancestral stock of Pit Vipers. The habit of vibrating the tip of the tail at a high rate of speed is believed to be an escape of nervous force brought about by immediate conditions.

## A FAIR COLORIST



This young woman ascends a giddy ladder every day to put finishing touches to the "Rainbow City"—the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition, opening in Philadelphia June 1 and continuing until December 1, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence. She is one of an army of young artists who are making the Sesqui a colorful success.