

TODAY and TOMORROW

LIFE natural cycle

The year 1935 ought to be a good year for red clover in New England. The winter has been the most severe in years. Comparatively few of the little animals of the fields and woods survive a winter when the crust of the snow is frozen hard. There will be fewer field-mice to rob the bumble-bees' nests in the spring. More bumble-bees will come to maturity and seek honey from the red clover-blossoms. The clover crop will thus be thoroughly pollenized, and the red clover seeds will be fertile. That will make for a good red clover crop in 1935.

To me this example of the cycle of life, first pointed out by Charles Darwin, has always seemed one of the most interesting of all natural phenomena. I think that many well-meant efforts to disturb Nature's ordinary course are calculated to do more harm than good to a world that has adjusted itself to the normal cycle.

TEETH now and then

Tooth decay has little to do with tooth cleanliness or the lack of it, according to the British Medical Research Council, which has been digging deep into the subject. What makes children's teeth decay is not enough sunshine, too high a percentage of cereal foods, not enough meat, eggs, milk, cheese, fats and fresh vegetables in the diet, these medical men say.

The whitest and soundest teeth are found among savage and half-civilized people who live largely out of doors and eat whatever they can find that is edible. In my boyhood toothbrushes were just beginning to come into general use and not more than one or two dentifrices were advertised. Most folks never brushed their teeth at all, yet the human race had survived for a good many thousand, perhaps millions, of years.

Clean, white teeth are desirable, but nothing to worry about if one doesn't have them.

MONSTERS men have seen

The amount of evidence that some strange sea-monster lives in a Scottish loch, and the many reports of a serpent seen in Vancouver Sound, have encouraged many folk to tell of strange things they have seen at sea, about which they had kept quiet for fear of being ridiculed.

Officers of the Mauretania saw a serpent on a recent Caribbean cruise, and drew a picture of it in the ship's log. Now the Rev. J. E. Rockwell, who is a sort of traveling missionary to seamen and voyages some 50,000 miles every year, tells of seeing a yellow serpent about sixty feet long in mid-Pacific two years ago.

It seems to me that we are on the verge of demonstrating once more that there is more to ancient beliefs than a skeptical modern age has been willing to believe.

POEM O'Hara masterpiece

Theodore O'Hara wrote one of the world's greatest poems more than 75 years ago. It is "The Bivouac of the Dead," and when Arlington National Cemetery was established, after the Civil War, stanzas from this great poem were inscribed on stone tablets and set up in different parts of the field.

The Fine Arts Commission decided that the ancient stones, before which millions of Americans have paused to read O'Hara's thrilling lines, were not artistic, and ordered them removed. Such a protest was made, however, that it has been decided to inscribe the whole poem on the walls of the amphitheater.

On Fame's eternal camping ground Their silent tents are spread, And Glory guards, with solemn round,

The Bivouac of the Dead. I know of few finer lines in English poetry than those and the rest of O'Hara's verses.

POKER and personal rights

The great American card game, so far as men are concerned, is not contract bridge but poker. In a good many states there are laws against playing poker, also against playing marbles "for keeps" and anything else that can be construed as gambling. These laws are seldom invoked except when somebody in authority wants to make trouble for somebody else.

Representative Parker of Georgia had a candidate for postmaster of his home town. His political opponents brought before the Senate evidence that the Congressman's choice had once been arrested in a raid on a poker game, indicted and fined. Mr. Parker cheerfully admitted that was true. He had sat in the same poker game himself and had also been arrested and fined! If it didn't debar him from later going to Congress, it ought not to debar his man from the postmastership. The Senate confirmed the appointment with glee.

Few take seriously any sort of laws that restrict the right of the individual to do what he likes, so long as he doesn't infringe on the rights of others.

SERMON TOPICS

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(By Rev. Frank E. Palley)

"And they come, bringing unto him a man, . . . borne of four." Mark 2:3.

Four men, whose names are not given in the Gospel, had a friend with a bodily ailment. Hearing of a mysterious Healer, they decided to take their friend to see what He could do. You remember the story, how when they reached the town of Capernaum where Jesus was, they had to tear open the thatched-grass roof and let the man down into the room, so many people crowded all the other entrances.

All men should have a name. When we pray we say "Hallowed be Thy name." When we baptize, we say, "Name this, child." The Proverbs suggests: "A good name is rather to be chosen than riches."

So we have named the first of these men "Faith." He it was who thought up the trip. He "knew" that if they could reach Christ their friend would be restored. He was prepared to walk by faith if not by sight. The N. C. weekly magazine, "The State," tells of a man riding along the highway in his automobile and noticing a large, dark shadow over him. For a moment he was puzzled, but stopping his car, and getting out, he was able to see directly overhead an airplane flying. He saw when he placed himself in a position to see. While he was closed-up in his car and moving he could see only imperfectly. The season we call Lent offers us pause, a slight lessening of the speed with which we are travelling. A time to "go a little way apart" and find again our markers of faith, our ancient touchstone.

The second man was named "hope," who wanted to put "Faith's" idea into practice. "Now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee." He was courageous, and cheerful.

Through faith we see that we are all parts of the Universe, and that the Universe is a part of God. Therefore we are sons and co-workers with God, having a Divine Nature. Hope and faith together helps us to say with Dr. Joseph Fort Newton "Life begins when you have a world fit to live in, a self fit to live with, a work fit to live for, and a faith fit to live by."

Life, to have value, must have dignity. There can be a dignity in poverty, but there can be no dignity in uselessness. We must find again the purpose of God, because the dignity and value of man rests upon the reality of God. Man is interested only in the things we create without hands or brains. But God is interested in all men, believes in all men, has work for all men. There are no idlers in His kingdom; no hopelessness such as we see in the world of men.

The third man of the quartet taking their friend to Christ was named "Humility." "We may say much, yet not attain; and the sum of our words is, He is all." He knew God was King, not man. God was not an assistant to man's purpose, so much as man is an assistant to God's plan for the universe. We cannot see the full greatness, or the great fullness of God, by thinking of Him only as someone to call upon in need. When we are humble enough we are able to see that we are destined to become conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, unto the measure and fullness of a perfect man. Our levels are lower than that; we must reach upwards for a higher level upon which to live.

The fourth man was "Perseverance." He endured to the end, undismayed by shaking of reeds in the wind. He knew that God's purpose standeth sure. And that "nearer and nearer draws the time. The time that shall surely be, When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God, As the waters cover the sea." Amen.

"THEIRS NOT TO REASON WHY" —By Albert T. Reid



Make Farm Plans According To Needs

Growers who have signed cotton or tobacco reduction contracts will find it helpful to plan systematically for the best use of the acreage rented to the government, says Charles A. Sheffield, assistant extension director at N. C. State College.

One of the best ways to go about the planning is to prepare a table showing how many persons and head of livestock are to be fed on the farm and the amount of food and feed crops each will need.

The total amount of such crops needed can then be compared with a list of all crops grown on the farm last year. If the farmer has not been growing enough of the necessary crops, he has figures to show just what additional foods and feeds he needs to produce.

Since he must not increase the total amount of crops that he has been producing, the grower may find it convenient to reduce a crop of which he has been growing too much, so that he can increase an-

other crop. Or if he likes, he can grow his feed crops on the rented acres and reserve the other land for crops to be marketed. Only crops for consumption at home can be grown on the rented acres. Mr. Sheffield has prepared a special circular, "Planning for Agricultural Recovery in North Carolina," which tells how to plan for systematic farming and shows how much foods and feeds are required for the healthful maintenance of both people and animals.

The circular may be obtained free of charge by applying to F. H. Jeter, agricultural editor at State College.

D. H. Osborne of Canton was recently elected president of the North Carolina Guernsey Breeders Association. Reid Mendenhall of High Point was elected vice-president and T. H. Antrim of Durham was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

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