

### THE LURE OF LUXURY.

This is pre-eminently an age of plenty. Once luxuries were costly; now they are cheap. Erstwhile only the rich dared to indulge a diversified appetite; nowadays the beggar must have dainty delicacies or he reviles his benefactor. Men have grown both brain and brawn on porridge and water. Now intellectual and physical pigmies plunder earth and sea and air for palatable pabulum and pungent potatoes. Chefs concoct curious collations and multiply marvelous and minatory menus. Chairs must be cushioned and couches curtained. Pigs and pugs are pampered in palaces. Children are corrected with custard and castoria. Tears trickle over compound cosmetics upon intricately embroidered laces and linen. Walking is effete, and riding is ridiculous except in limousine and Pullman. Houses need not be homes, but must be monuments displaying muck and money. Libraries are littered with de luxe editions of doubtful dilettantes, and walls are weighted with putrid pictures, and pedestals and portals polluted with saturnalian and salacious statuary. Lust lurks in luxury. It lures from strenuous life to lax living. It dulls the dare of duty. It sings siren's songs. Wooing, it wins worth to wantonness. The mere multiplying of material things may minister to madness. Complexity is not always culture. Versatility is not necessarily virtue. Simplicity must save. Sowing is correlated with reaping. Hell is sometimes the harvest. Heaven is the garden of lawful life. Let money minister to soul, and not to sense. —Western Methodist.

### OUR CHURCH'S PROGRESS.

One of the items of greatest interest in the annual report of our whole Church, as shown in the Minutes, is the accessions. This year, 1916-17, the whole number of accessions on examination was 96,792, against 104,526 last year, a difference in favor of 1916 of 7,734. The number on certificate this year was 62,209; last year 60,189, gain for this year of 2,020. The banner Synod on accessions is Pennsylvania, with 13,561. New York is a close second, with 12,933. The banner church is the Linwood Presbyterian church, with an accession of 513. The First church of Seattle, Wash., follows, with 498; the Woodward Avenue church, Detroit, with 492; the Fourth church, Chicago, with 384. The net total of communicants of the whole Church is 1,604,466. The net total last year was 1,560,009, which shows a final increase for this year of 44,457. The total funds of the Church for this year is \$31,236,296, an increase of over three million dollars over last year. There was increase in the income of every Board save that of Education: 197 men were licensed, 226 ordained, 712 installations, 675 pastoral dissolutions, 94 churches were organized, 97 were dissolved, 108 ministers were received from other denominations, and 48 were dismissed to other denominations. Two churches were received and nine dismissed. —The Presbyterian.

Discontented workers, pining for higher positions, may well ponder this pregnant sentence from "Impersonal Memories" by George Batchelor now appearing in The Christian Register: "When I think of my work for the last fifty years, I often think of myself at the organ blowing the bellows, while better men sat at the keyboard. They must have been better men, or I should have been at the keyboard and they at the bellows." —The Outlook.

## SCOTIA SEMINARY

CONCORD, N. C.

A well equipped school under the care of the Freedmen's Board of the Presbyterian Church U. S. A. for the higher education and Industrial Training of Colored Young Women. It includes

A College Course, affording opportunity for those desiring to complete the more advanced studies.

Preparatory Course, including the High School Academic for those desiring to prepare for College, and the High School Normal for those desiring special preparation for teaching.

Also Industrial Courses, including Domestic Arts and Sciences.

Two large Dormitories with pleasant rooms, steam heated, and lighted by electricity, pleasantly situated and convenient to Rail Road Station.

For catalogue and any desired information, address the President, REV. A. W. VERNER, D. D.

## BIDDLE UNIVERSITY

Operated under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

The University has Four Departments—High School, Arts and Sciences, Theological and Industrial.

### HIGH SCHOOL

In the High School, which consists of four years, two courses are offered, one leading to the Classical Course of the Colleges the other to the Scientific. The Scientific Course is identical with the Classical in the first and in the second year. In the third and in the fourth year of the Scientific Course German is substituted for Greek or Latin.

All applicants for admission to the High School must be at least fourteen years of age, must have completed a Grammar School Course and must furnish satisfactory testimonials of good moral character.

### COLLEGIATE DEPARTMENT

The School of Arts and Sciences offers two courses of study, the Classical and the Scientific. In the Scientific Course German is substituted for Greek or Latin. Students completing the Classical Course satisfactorily receive the degree of Bachelor of Arts (A. B.); those completing the Scientific Course that of Bachelor of Science (B. S.)

Fifteen units of Secondary work are required for entrance, without condition, in the Freshman Class

### THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

The course of study prescribed in this Department, is both liberal and practical. Besides the ordinary English Studies of the Theological Seminary, students who have taken a college course, or its equivalent, pursue exegetical study of Greek Scriptures throughout the entire course, and Hebrew in the Junior and Middle Years. Where the previous training of the student has been partial and his years are mature, a shorter and purely English course has been provided.

### INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT

All students in the High School are required to take some trade and to report twice a week for work in this Department. College students may also take trades. At present Carpentry, Printing, Bricklaying, Plastering, Tailoring, Shoemaking and Blacksmithing, etc., are taught.

Tuition is free. Good Board, with furnished room, light and fuel can be had for \$8.00 per month in the hall, which is presided over by one of the professors.

Needy and deserving students may ordinarily expect such assistance as will enable them successfully to prosecute their studies.

The school year begins the third Wednesday in September. Students may be admitted to the classes by examination at the beginning of the first and second semesters.

For information or catalogue, address

REV. H. L. MCCROREY, D. D., President of Biddle University, Charlotte, N. C.

## INGLESIDE SEMINARY

BURKEVILLE, VA.

was founded by the Freedmen's Board of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., for educating and training young women of the Negro race. The new catalogue provides a curriculum of Academic and Collegiate studies; special stress in Normal Course, Music and Industrial Training, Domestic Arts and Sciences.

Capable and moral-loving young women who desire opportunity of self-improvement and the attainment of a Higher Education are requested to correspond with the President.

Tuition is free. Good Board, with furnished room, electric light and steam heat are provided.

The school year begins the first Wednesday in October. Full information and catalogue sent on application.

REV. J. W. DUNBAR, D. D., President, Burkeville, Va.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale's advice to the young people of his time was, "Every day try to meet some one wiser and better than yourself." Some young people of our day, comments an exchange, seem to think that this would be an impossible task. —The Outlook.

### MORAL INERTIA IS TO BLAME

Often Responsible for Failure to Live the Kind of Life That One Really Wants to Live.

How difficult it is to live up to our good resolutions we all know from experience, but a fact that we do not, as a rule, take into consideration is that moral inertia is as much responsible for this condition as is temptation in its varied forms. Granted that we have the desire to lead good lives and that we prefer that our thoughts should run in clean, clear channels rather than in muddy, murky ones we do not always have the moral strength necessary to put these desires into effect. Observes the Charleston News and Courier, "We believe, perhaps, that we are stronger than we really are and that although we may already be launched upon a dangerous sea we can make a safe haven at will. That we often misjudge our power of accomplishment in this direction, however, is not to be denied as circumstances demonstrate when we make the attempt to seek refuge from the dangers that threaten us. On the other hand, we can gather strength from our trials and unhappy experience if we will notwithstanding the blows they deal and the discouragement they prompt. Others have accomplished the feat in the past and still others will accomplish it in the future, and these thoughts alone should encourage those of us at the present who are staggering under heavy burdens and fighting unhappy handicaps to make a winning race."

### ONLY ADVERTISING OF VALUE

Must Be Absolute Truth in the Unvarying Experience of American Men of Business.

The only kind of advertising that has any real value is that based on the truth, so that when the convention of the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World, in session at Indianapolis, reaffirmed "truthful publicity" as their slogan they but formulated the unvarying experience of the business world. Lincoln's famous remark to the effect, that "you can fool some of the people all the time, and all the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time," is peculiarly applicable to the publicity field; the attempt to fool the people by means of dishonest advertising is cumulative in its retribution and the advertiser who tries it spells his own ultimate confusion. This is by no means a mere assumption, for statistics prove that the public is quick to detect the fraudulent variety; faint earmarks of insincerity and mendacity soon become conspicuous warnings, and the truthful advertisements bring results out of all proportion to those which fail to keep faith with the buyer. Even without the laws here and there aimed at the dishonest practice of the false advertiser, the business world is learning quickly that the success won by the trickster is a transitory one, while the firm foundations are those that are built upon truth and sincerity. —Philadelphia Ledger.

### Loving Your Husband.

Some day you'll love a man. You might just as well do now unless you do! But you'll really love him after you have your children. It may even be long after. It isn't having children that makes a woman, I don't care what the world says about it! They prepare you to love the man. They cease to need you so much; but he needs you more and more. And after the children have deepened you, the thing will come over you. The mother who thought she had spent herself, risen, Anna! She is resurrected. Then she turns and mothers a man. She mothers him as she could not have mothered any child for the duty is left out and all the responsibility. It is sheer, beautiful, generous giving. —Allie Woods in American Magazine.

### IS OLDEST CHRISTIAN NATION

Abyssinia's Claim to the Title Founded on Technicality Entitled to Credence.

Abyssinia claims to be the oldest Christian nation. The claim seems founded on a technicality entitled to credence, but which has not accomplished much for Christianity in the last nineteen hundred years.

Rulers of Abyssinia are proud of descent from the queen of Sheba and from Solomon as the result of the former's visit to Jerusalem. As Solomon had many wives and an immense harem he may have married the queen of Sheba, but there is no testimony to the fact other than the tradition in Abyssinia, which was the ancient Sheba, with which the Jews had a large commerce. The country was Christianized through monks from Egypt, and it is said that one of the kings in the second century declared "Christianity the official religion, thus antedating all other nations. The matter is really of only academic importance.

We are apt to think of the Abyssinians as heathen negroes steeped in the deepest barbarism. On the contrary, they are a rather virtile people, as all who have attacked them know. They have a civilization that is suited to their environment, and while it may not be up to the standard of splendor which the queen of Sheba is supposed to have maintained, it is comfortable enough for those who live there. In recent years many explorers have found much to surprise them, and it is within the memory of this generation that Italy made an unsuccessful attempt to seize the country.

### HARKING BACK TO NATURE

There Are Without Strong Feeling of Kinship With the Things of the Wild.

A bond from which we are never free unites us to another earth. The appeal of the remnants of civilization is strong; they are needed and they have become an integral part of our life, but somewhere in our nature is something that always harkens back to nature.

This feeling of close kinship with wild things, the stream, the birds and animals, the woods, gives strength to the soul. Were we to live always on the artificial heights, we should become enervated. For the earth is our home; from the actual physical earth we gain strength of body and mind. From considering it, we learn lessons of truth and purity and order, and the foundations of beauty are all found in the material world. Our love of nature, our longing sometimes to get out into the wilds comes, though we may never realize it, from our need of these things.

With all our refinements, we shall never do so well without the knowledge of the kindly earth as with it. Even in winter there is much to learn, much to enjoy, and we lose much when we think we can do without our close communion with the mother of us all.

### EVERY FUR SEAL HAS HAREM

Male Sometimes Gathers More Than 100 Females on the Section of Beach Which He Controls.

Fur seals are extremely polygamous and the old males, which weigh from 400 to 500 pounds, "haul up" first on the breeding beaches. Each bull holds a certain area, and as the females, only one-fifth his size, come ashore they are appropriated by the nearest bulls until each "beach master" gathers a harem, sometimes containing more than 100 members, says the National Geographic Magazine.

Here the young are born, and after the mating season, the seals which have remained ashore without food from 4 to 6 weeks, return to the water. The mothers go and come, and each is able to find her young with certainty among thousands of apparently identical woolly black "pups." From the ages of one to four years fur seals are extremely playful. They are marvelous swimmers and frolic about in pursuit of one another now diving deep and then, one after the other, suddenly leaping high above the surface in graceful curves, like porpoises. Squids and fish of various species are their main food. Their chief natural enemy is the killer whale, which follows their migrations and haunts the sea about their breeding ground, taking heavy toll among them.

### DRINKING WATER IN GUTTERS

However, the Ladies of the Andean Capital Also Bathe in It.

Ibaguena, capital of the Colombian Province of Tolima, claims 2,300 "baths," but the count takes much for granted. It is a square-cornered town of almost wholly thatched one-story buildings, its wide streets atrociously cobbled and its few sidewalks worn perilously slippery and barely wide enough for two feet at once.

A stream of crystal-clear water gurgles down every street through cobbled gutters, lulling the traveler to sleep and furnishing a convenient means of washing photographic films. We drank less often, however, after we had strolled up to the end of the mountain and found three nontoo-handsome ladies bathing in the reservoir.

It is a peaceful, roomy place, where everyone has unlimited space on the grassy, gentle slope to put up his little chalky, straw-roofed cottage, yet all too the street line as if fearful of missing anything that might unexpectedly pass. Foreigners seem to be a great novelty, and I could find no satisfactory reason why so many Ibaguenos were blind, unless they had overindulged themselves in the national game of starting. —Harry A. Franck, in the Century Magazine.

### WATER NECESSARY TO LIFE

Astronomer Can Prove That Other Planets Are Uninhabited If He Finds They Have No Moisture.

All life is lived in water. Where no water is, no life can be. The necessary machinery may have been already made, as in a completely dried seed, but that seed cannot actually live until water reaches it again. To live is to be wet; or, in the phrase of a French student, "Life is an aquatic phenomenon."

When the supply of water is withheld from living things they may survive, but their life is slowed down, as it were. In the completely dried seed life is arrested altogether, yet the creature is not dead. The French call that a case of *vis suspendue*—or, in our language, suspended animation. After astonishingly long periods, such seeds will germinate if they are watered.

The astronomer tells us that our planet is only one of many belonging to innumerable suns, and he wonders whether this little "Jukewarrior" of ours, as Robert Louis Stevenson called it, is really unique in bearing a burden of life. There is one path that leads to the answer of his query. If he finds no evidence of water on other worlds he cannot expect to find life there. —Dr. C. W. Saleeby, in The Youth's Companion.

### WHEN HEART ACTION STOPS

Not Always Easy to Assign a Reason for That Particular Form of Life's Ending.

Departments of health and medical statisticians rightly refuse to recognize heart failure as a definite cause of death for their mortality lists, the term having come to be a ready refuge for ignorant or indolent physicians looking for an easy explanation of an unexpected death. There seem, however, to be some cases left in which the expression finds a proper place and supplies a lacuna in present-day medical knowledge.

Occasionally there is apparently no good reason in the heart condition to expect that it may suddenly cease its activity, and yet it actually stops. Apparently the effect of even some slight irritation becomes so multiplied in heart tissues as to bring about a definite disturbance of rhythm, and cardiac action ceases for good and all. Not infrequently such cases come to a climax shortly after food has been taken into the stomach; then there seems to be some connection between the gastric condition and the sudden heart stoppage.

Long ago Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes suggested that the angel of life sees this living pendulum going and that it goes on and on until the angel of death breaks into the case and rudely stops it. The expression is highly figurative and yet contains in it the germ of the thought that sometimes life's processes seem to have approached a terminus, which they may reach unexpectedly as the result of some irritation that would in itself, presumably, not be sufficient to produce any such far-reaching effect. —New York Herald.

### TESTED THE DENTIST'S WORK

Khedive of Egypt Had Followers' Teeth Pulled So He Could See Whether It Would Hurt.

To illustrate Oriental habits of thought, Lord Cromer tells, in the Quarterly Review, this story of Ismail Pasha, the khedive of Egypt. It once happened that Ismail was suffering from toothache. He sent for a European dentist, who told him that he ought to have the tooth out. Ismail said, that he was afraid it would be very painful. He was informed in reply that, if he would allow the dentist to administer laughing gas to him, he would feel nothing. He still doubted, but told the dentist to bring his apparatus to the palace and he would then discuss the matter.

The dentist came and explained the process to the khedive. Ismail then summoned an attendant and told him to send up the man who was at his door. When the man entered the khedive ordered him to sit down in a chair, and requested the dentist to take out a tooth on either side of his jaw. Ismail then asked the man whether he had felt any pain, and the man told him that he had not. But Ismail was not yet satisfied. He said that the surgery was a very strong man, and that he would like to see the experiment tried on a man of weaker physique.

Accordingly he ordered a slave girl from the harem and the dentist extract two of her teeth. Finding that she did not show any evidence of extreme suffering, Ismail consented to have his own teeth pulled. It is related, although possibly that part of the story is apocryphal, that the dentist then received an order on the Egyptian treasury for one thousand pounds.

### How the Tomato Was Named.

Few persons know the origin of this common name. It originated in this way: The earlier experimenters with the fruit believed that it had a great effect on the spleen—that is to say, it made persons liable to crossness good-natured—gave them, so to speak, a lovely disposition, and for this reason the plant was known to the ancient Spaniards as the love apple. By the name of love apple it is still known in many English-speaking countries. The word tomato is derived from the same source, that is to say, from the original Latin word *amo*, to love, although we use it now as a Spanish derivative, tomato being a Spanish expression. —Mechan's Monthly.

### Sensations of Starvation.

Experiments in prolonged starvation showed that after the first three or four days of starvation, the sensation of hunger was no longer felt. In a five-day starvation experiment on men there was no decrease in the hunger contractions. An increase in the intensity of the hunger contractions was evidenced by the appearance of the incomplete hunger tetanus on the fourth and fifth days of starvation. On the fifth day the continuous hunger sensation was tinged with a peculiar "burning" sensation, probably caused by acid stimulation of nerve-endings in the stomach. Instead of eagerness for food there was an almost total indifference to it.

### Who Are the Sane?

If the definition of insanity was followed to the letter, were experts appointed to examine all men, few would escape the brand of insanity, but who could qualify as an expert since we may become insane upon the subject of insanity? All have their predilections and prejudices, symptoms of a mild form of mental bias, passing under the ambiguous name of eccentricities; and some there are, so erratic that we should call them insane did they not possess sufficient sanity to dissemble their weakness. —From the Medical Fortnightly.

### FOOD PREJUDICE IS COSTLY

Learn to Know All the Good Things to Eat, Not a Few Only, Urge Government Experts.

Don't be snicky. Be willing to try new foods. Certain plentiful and nourishing foods widely used and enjoyed in one section are practically unknown in other portions of the country. Learn to know all the good things, not a few only, urge government food experts.

People too easily get into food vices; insist on eating only the food they are used to, and refuse to give a fair trial to others. This causes undue demand for certain staples, with resulting scarcity or high prices when crops are short. At the same time other valuable foods may be relatively cheap and available. A striking instance of this is failure fully to appreciate rice—a valuable source of starch—when potatoes are scarce and high. Another example is refusal in certain sections to use anything but wheat as a breakfast cereal, when corn—a valuable cereal widely used elsewhere as a breakfast—is plentiful and relatively cheap.

### The Battlefield.

The Somme front in the snow and brilliant sunshine was magnificent, says George Bernard Shaw in the London Chronicle. The irony of the signposts was immense. "To Maroupois," and there was no Maroupois. "To Contalmaison," and there was no Contalmaison. "To Pozières," and there was no Pozières.

On the road to Trecat the trees had stood, an unbroken old guard lining the road, with hardly a gap in their ranks. But here! With every limb shot to bits, beheaded, halved, cut off at the shins, torn out of the earth and flung prostrate, these woods seemed to scud with bare poles or broken jurgans before the wind as our car passed, all their singing blown and shot away.

As to the ground you cannot find enough flat earth in a square mile to play marbles on.

### HOW TO BE SURE OF DEATH

Maryland Board of Medical Examiners Gives the Correct Answer to Question.

What are the means used to prove that death has positively occurred? was a question put to postgraduates by the state board of medical examiners of Maryland at the June examination. The correct answer is given as: "The complete and permanent cessation of circulation and respiration, rigor mortis, loss of bodily heat, pallor of the body, putrefaction."

Rigor mortis, the condition of rigidity into which the muscles pass after death, begins at a time varying from about fifteen minutes to about six hours. It begins in the face and progresses downward, and the muscles relax in about the same order after 24 hours.

In a recent article in America, Dr. Austin O'Malley pointed out that it was often impossible to tell at what moment death occurred, and that physicians were so often in doubt about this that it is a rule for priests to administer the last sacraments (conditionally, of course) even several hours after apparent death, there being many cases on record in which a person believed to be dead has revived.

### Till the Plumber Comes.

If often becomes necessary to stop a leak in a water pipe when a plumber's services cannot immediately be obtained. Pipes have a habit of springing a leak at the most inconvenient times. To persons who may find themselves in this predicament a suggestion sent to Popular Mechanics by J. W. Cox of Florence, Ala., should prove valuable.

A piece of sheet rubber was placed over the leak and a wooden block was fitted over it, the inner surface being curved to fit the pipe. The block and rubber packing were clamped against the pipe by means of a stick, notched to fit against the pipe and held by a twisted wire, a block being used to wedge the packing and cover block firmly into place. The repair was watertight and saved much inconvenience and probably considerable damage.

### Women of Ancient Babylon.

To some extent women's rights were recognized in Babylon. Indeed, in some respects, they were acknowledged as men's equals. They entered into business partnerships, they could lend and borrow, they could bequeath their property without let or hindrance. In the great temples of Babylon, the priests and priestesses stood on the same level. The marriage laws of the Babylonians gave the advantage to the men. Not only fathers, but also brothers, sold their women into marriage. Often, though not always, brides were required to bring their husbands dowries. But the property she possessed remained her own. And this was five and twenty centuries ago.

### Service Makes Boy Scouts Healthy.

People who decide or are concerned at the employment of Boy Scouts in the duty of coast watching will be enlightened by the observations of Doctor Aldous, chief commissioner for Portsmouth, who found sickness is a rare thing among them and wishes that more Scouts could be put on this duty, which is making such big, healthy lads of them. He enumerates several cases of boys of fourteen who have gained materially in weight and chest measurement in three months or less, and the seal they display is surprising when it is considered what a great change it must be for town boys to be dropped on a bleak and lonely part of the coast. —London Globe.