

The True Test of Oysters.
The best oyster experts that I know of," said the captain of an oyster boat, "judge an oyster by the smell instead of by the taste. There is something about the smell of any oyster that indicates its condition to me much plain than does the taste. People try them and eat them probably on account of their taste. So also do they buy tea, coffee and the various grades of whisky and brandy for their taste, but all experts on those things pass upon them entirely by their smell. The professional tea taster or whisky taster, so called, never tastes them, but simply arrives at their taste by their peculiarities of flavor or, to speak plainly, smell. I can tell what price a load of oysters will be rated at when they arrive at the wharf here by opening up the hold of the boat and smelling. In eight cases out of ten I am right. It strikes oystermen as strange when they see persons going about from boat to boat, as they lie at the wharf, tasting oysters before they conclude to buy. Taste is all right, but if they don't smell right they will never taste right."—Washington Star.

American Tourists and Their Ways.
English people, as a rule, try to enter a hotel drawing room or any other public place as quietly as possible and endeavor not to interfere with the other occupants of the room more than they can help. A party of French or Germans will never dream of stopping to consider whether their piercing voices are deafening their neighbors, while Americans have a particularly maddening habit of reading their correspondence aloud in public without the slightest regard to other people who are reading or conversing in the same room. It is no doubt part of the same lack of breeding which leads them to hold conversations at the top of their very penetrating voices not only in public picture galleries, but also in continental churches, without paying any attention to the fact that a solemn service may be going on within a few yards of them.—London Modern Society.

A Curious Coincidence.
The story of a queer coincidence is told by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. While traveling upon the continent he visited a certain mountain inn, which was in winter, he learned, occupied only by two men. These men, imprisoned in a waste of snow and ice, had for all that period no communication with the world below. Here was a situation for a novelist! And the novelist accordingly began to let his imagination play about the possibilities of tragedy surrounding the two men on their mountain height. But the story was never written, for, happening to come upon a volume of Guy de Maupassant, which was new to him, he found therein, under the title of "L'Auberger," the very story he had meant to write.

Sixty Thousand Seeds to the Plant.
The common purslane is one of the wonders of botany as far as seeds are concerned. A single seed of this plant will produce about twenty seed pods in a season. The average number of seeds in each of these, by actual count, is 6,000, making 60,000 in all. As far as we have been able to learn there is no instance of similar fruitfulness in any plant found growing in this country. A single plant of either the Jamestown weed ("Jimson"), the butterweed, the ragweed, and some of the verveines produce an enormous number of seeds, but it is doubtful if any one of them produces one-fourth as many in a year as the purslane does.—St. Louis Republic.

A Human Nose Two Feet in Length.
Elephantiasis is a peculiar form of leprosy in which the limbs and features swell to horrible proportions and out of all semblance to the legs, arms and faces of human beings. Cases are known where the legs have become so swollen that they measured 4½ feet in circumference. The ears of the same victim, Walter Brisbane, an English sailor, were eighteen inches in length, and his nose elongated to upward of two feet when in the last stages of the horrible malady. London Telegraph.

Feminine Logic.
"The female sex," said M. Callino lately, "is the most illogical in the world."
"What new proof have you of the want of devotion of women to the canons of logic?" he was asked.
"Why, take my wife," answered M. Callino. "I had all the trouble in the world to get her to enter her thirties, and now, a dozen years later, I can't get her out of them."

False Pretense.
"No, madam," said Bridget, "I'll not have without two weeks' notice. That was the contract an' I'll bowld yer to it."
"But," replied Mrs. Hiram Offen, "you broke the contract in the first place by representing yourself as a cook."—Philadelphia Press.

Put Her Foot Down.
Naggin—But why don't you argue the matter out with your wife? Meekton—Hush! My wife has very positive ideas on that subject. The moment I opened my mouth my wife would put her foot down, and—Naggin—The idea! I should think you'd choke to death.

He Knew.
Teacher—Now, Robert, do you know what an isosceles triangle is? Boy—Yes'm. Teacher—Well, what is it? Boy—It's one of dem t'ings I gits licked fer not knowin' wot it is.—Judge.

There are some minds like either convex or concave mirrors, which represent objects such as they receive them, but they never receive them as they are. Joubert.

Inebriety and the Eating of Fruit.
There is but one sure cure for the drinking disease or habit, and that is the simplest of all. The cure consists in eating fruits. That will cure the worst case of inebriety that ever afflicted a person. It will entirely destroy the taste for intoxicants and will make the drunkard return to the thoughts and tastes of his childhood. No person ever saw a man or woman who liked fruit and who had an appetite for drink. No person ever saw a man or woman with an appetite for drink who liked fruit. The two tastes are at deadly enmity with each other, and there is no room for both of them in the same human constitution. One will surely destroy the other.—What to Eat.

Old Saying With New Meaning.
The saying "Cast not a clout till ye be out" has been understood to a caution against laying aside winter clothing until the month of May is ended. A correspondent of London Notes and Queries says that an old gardener he knows gives a different turn to the proverb, affirming that ere the may has come into bloom he is never any further danger of it, and the saying is really a caution against throwing aside extra garments until the month has come to end, but until the may be out in season.

A Horrible Custom.
Writing from Abyssinia, a correspondent says: "Quaint customs prevail in these parts. When a father is dying in his years the son bids him to climb a tree and jump down from a branch. If the old man staggers landing the son spears him on the spot; his usefulness is over."

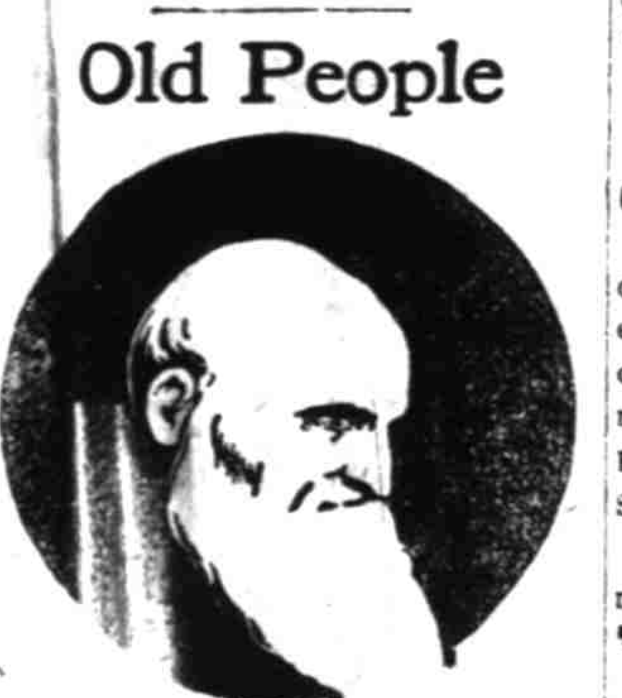
Correct.
The New Waitress—Shall I say "Dinner is served" or "Dinner is ready," mam? Mistress—If that cook doesn't do any better, just say "Dinner is served."—Harper's Bazar.

Nerve.
You don't even dress me decently," cried, "I'm going home to papa."
All right," replied Doolittle. "You might say to him also that I need a new suit myself."

Tart.
Stella—He told me I looked sweet enough to eat.
Bella—He doubtless meant you were well preserved.—New York Sun.

GIRL DIES FROM PISTOL SHOT.
Miss Tosh, Member of Unfortunate Family Probably Suicide.
Richmond, Va., Dec. 30.—Miss Josephine Tosh, a beautiful girl, twenty-one years of age, died at the Memorial Hospital at a late hour last night from the effects of a pistol wound in her temple, fired by herself several hours before her death at her home on South Fifth street. Whether or not she committed suicide is not known, and probably never will be, although the circumstances point to that theory. Miss Tosh, sister of the girl says that she was in the act of loading the revolver when it was accidentally discharged.

The family has recently met with a large series of misfortunes and fatalities. Ten years ago the father of the dead girl, James T. Tosh, was blown to pieces in an explosion in Romaine's fireworks factory in Petersburg. A little sister shortly afterward fell from a porch and was killed. Charles Tosh, a brother, was almost killed by the accidental discharge of a gun, while hunting several years ago. He is blind now as a result of that accident, and a generally bad physical condition. James Tosh, Jr., another brother, is nearly dead from typhoid fever at their home.



Old People
it strengthens and vitalizes
With loss of strength and vitality comes feebleness and the organs act more slowly; the blood is thin, and water; digestion is not assimilated as
worn tissues and
and decline. It tones up
ans, aids assimilation,
blood, and strengthens
the body. In this natural
replaces weakness
all the medicinal ele-
er oil in a concentrat-
from fresh cod's livers,
eliminated and tonic
we know so well of
made that we offer to
it fails to benefit
my, Druggist,
we are sole agents for
ington, it is for sale at
ing store in nearly every
town and
in the country. Look
agency in your town.

Always Remember the Full Name
Laxative Bromo Quinine
Cures a Cold in One Day, Grip in 2 Days
E. H. Snow on every box 35c

ROOSEVELT EMBARRASSED.
Has to Depend on Democrats to Fight Senator Foraker.
(Charlotte Observer.)
Washington, Dec. 31.—Since Senator Foraker has declared it to be his intention to force the matter of the discharge of the negro soldiers to the front the moment Congress opens, the administration is being represented as suffering some embarrassment from the fact that none of the great Republican lawyers of the Senate have shown any disposition to come to the President's relief. It is pointed out that even if the President is on the right side of the controversy, it may prove a little awkward for him, if he is reduced to the necessity of having to permit Democrats to present his side of the case. Mr. Lodge is ever ready to put in a word for his chief. Without reference to the subject at issue, the Massachusetts Senator does not possess sufficient familiarity with the law to keep from being bowled over by the astute Foraker. The Republican Washington Star, which has warmed up to the President considerably of late, apparently being will to overlook the Barnes White House affair, has virtually gone back on him again. It says that the President's side of the controversy, his friends should know, will not be helped by ridicule of Mr. Foraker, who "stands four-square to all the cheap scorn that blows."

Wise Counsel From The South.
"I want to give some valuable advice to those who suffer with lame back and kidney trouble," says J. R. Blankenship, of Beck, Tenn. "I have proved to an absolute certainty that Electric Bitters will positively cure this distressing condition. The first bottle gave me great relief and after taking a few more bottles, I was completely cured, so completely that it becomes a pleasure to recommend this great remedy." Sold under guarantee at R. R. Bellamy's drug store, Price 50c.

ART CLUB
AN ARROW
Glupeco Shrank Quarter Size Collar
15 cents each; 2 for 25 cents
CLUETT, PEABODY & CO.
Makers of Closets and Monarch Shirts



Christmas Goods

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS.
ALL THE NEW NOVELS,
CALENDARS & CHRISTMAS CARDS
EASTMAN KODAKS & SUPPLIES
WATERMAN'S IDEAL FOUNTAIN
PENS
FANCY BOX PAPER
LEATHER GOODS & FANCY GOODS
Robt. C. DeRosset.
Bookseller and Stationer.
dec 15-tf

CAPPS' LUNCH COUNTER
OYSTERS IN EVERY STYLE.
J. W. Capps has secured the services of Betsie Maloney, a noted cook and extends to the public a cordial welcome to his new lunch counter. His motto: "Ask for Betsie and Get the Best." Everything in and Out of Season.
CAPPS. LUNCH COUNTER,
n9-tf C. T. McKeltheon, Mgr

Regal, the Shoe That Proves.
Start the New Year with a
Pair of
REGALS.
Equal to any Shoe Made at a
Great Deal Higher Price.
\$3.50 1-4 Sizes.
A. SHRIER,
Agent.
34 NORTH FRONT STREET.
CATALOGUE ON REQUEST.
dec. 30-tf.

SWAS-TI-KA.
Big Reduction in Prices for Ten Days Only Beginning
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2ND
Ending Saturday, January 12th. Owing to late deliveries of several of our shipments we are overstocked for this season of the year and must make room for our large stock of spring shoes which will commence arriving the latter part of this month.
Entire Stock of Shoes at and Below Cost.

\$5.00 Men's Pat Kid Shoes	\$3.95	\$3.50 Ladies' Shoes; Colgate cut, Button and Lace Bluchers	\$2.75
\$4.00 Men's Pat Colt Shoes	\$2.95	\$3.00 Ladies' Pat, Button and Blucher Heavy or Light Soles	\$2.45
\$4.00 Men's Gun Metal Shoes	\$2.95	\$3.00 Ladies' Vici Kid Handsewed Blucher or Lace	\$2.35
Blucher Bals and Buttons.			
\$3.50 Men's Vici Kid Bluchers	\$2.75	\$2.00 and \$2.50 Ladies' Vici Kid Blucher and Lace, heavy or single sole	\$1.65
\$3.50 Men's Pl. Glo. Bal and Cong.	\$2.75	\$2.50 Lace Pat. Colt Pumps all sizes and widths	\$1.95
\$3.00 Men's Box Calf Gun Metal and Vici	\$2.45	\$1.25 Ladies' Felt Slippers	95c
\$2.50 Men's Box Calf Gun Metal and Vici	\$1.95	Misses' and Children's Department.	
Boys' Department			
\$3.00 Boys Pat Lea Gun Metal and Vici	\$2.35	\$2.50 Handsewed Pat Colt Blucher and Button; all widths	\$1.95
\$2.00 Boys Pat Lea Gun Metal and Vici	\$1.65	\$2.00 Misses Dongola hand sewed Blucher or Button; all widths	\$1.65
\$1.50 Boys' Vici Bals	\$1.20	\$1.50 Misses Button and Lace	\$1.20
\$1.50 Boys' Satin Calf Bluchers	\$1.20	\$2.00 Childrens' Pat. hand sewed Button and Blucher	\$1.65
Youth's Department.			
\$2.00 Youths Pat Bluchers	\$1.65	\$2.00 Child's Hand Sewed Vici Kid Button and Blucher	\$1.65
\$2.00 Youths Gun Metal and Box Calf	\$1.65	\$1.50 Child's Vici Blucher	\$1.20
\$1.50 Youths' Vici and Box Calf Lace	\$1.20	\$1.25 Child's Vici Lace	\$1.00
Little Gents.			
\$1.75 Little Gents' Pat and Vici Bluchers	\$1.40	All of these are the latest styles.	
\$1.50 Little Gents Box Calf and Vici	\$1.20		

Numerous other Bargains not Mentioned here. Do not miss this chance of getting a Bargain in Foot Wear. The prices are Strictly Cash.
HEWLETT & PRICE,
NO. 109 MARKET STREET.

THE ACADEMY
NEW YEAR'S DAY
(Tuesday)
Matinee and Night.
FAMED BLACK PATTI
And her Famed Troubadours.
An entire new performance of splendor
Matinee Prices—50c and 75c.
Balcony and Parquet for Whites
Night Prices—25c to \$1.00. Seats for both performances on sale Monday Morning at Plummer's, dec. 29-31.

Whenever You Want
THE FINEST OYSTERS,
THE TENDEREST STEAK,
A QUICK LUNCH
OR
ANY KIND OF BEER, WINE OR LIQUOR. CALL AT
ATLANTIC CAFE.
Opposite A. C. L. Depot.
Gieschen Bros,
Proprietors.
dec. 28-tf.

THE C. W. POLVOGT COMPANY,
"THE STORE THAT'S ALWAYS BUSY."
CARPETS VERY CHEAP.
Our normal prices are always lower than other dealers ask for similar qualities, and when we announce abnormal rates, as this week, they verge upon the sensational. Stock readjustment brought a great many to the surface—We tell you of them:

1.50 Axminster Carpets, sewed and layed, this week	\$1.20
1.20 Sultan Velvets, Parlor, Hall and Staff laid	1.30
1.15 Dody Brussels Rooms, Hall and Stairs	.95
1.00 Brussels Carpet, Rooms, Hall and Stairs	.85
A lot of odd lengths in Brussels Carpets 60c and 60c.	
30.00 Axminster Art Squares 9x12, this week	\$25.00
25.00 Axminster Art Squares 9x12, this week	22.50
12.50 Wool and Fiber 9x12 Art Squares this week	11.00
12.00 All Fiber Art Squares 9x12 this week	10.00
50c Fiber Carpet, sewed and laid this week, per yard,	.35

CLOAK AND SUIT ROOM NEWS.
We want to reduce our large stock of Ladies' Coats and Coat Suits. Prices like these should clean them all out:

12.00 Black and Navy Blue Cheviots Suits this week	\$10.00
18.00 Broadcloth Suits, Nobby Styles, this week	15.00
20.00 Broadcloth Suits Neatly made, and trimmed, only	17.50
25.00 Suits, Fancy Mixed Materials and Cloths this week	20.00
30.00 Suits, all Shade Chiffon Broadcloth this week	25.00
35.00 Suits, Mixtures and Broadcloth, this week	28.00

TRIMMED MILLINERY—At one-third off regular price—some great bargains in the stock to select from.
BLANKETS, COMFORTS AND DOWN QUILTS—All at reduced prices. Southern Trading Stamps given with all cash purchases.
THE C. W. POLVOGT CO.
dec. 30-31.

FOR RENT
Seven Large Offices on Second
Floor in
PETERSON & RULFS'
NEW BUILDING, Next to Murchison Bank.
PHONE 208.