

# School Notes

(By Pupils of 9-C.)

## THE MODERN SPECTATOR

Spectator No. 3.—The Spectator Discusses Present Day Superstition

Superstition is for the ignorant and credulous. It is very strong among the mountain people and many of these old mountaineers will not own a cat that happens to be born black; but it is not only the ignorant Ethiopian or the rustic mountaineer—it is in the people of the cities whose circumstances are up-to-date, but among whom, deep down in their hearts, lurks the superstition of their primitive forbears. It is with this temper of mind that I consider the superstitions of the present day.

The old black cat! A superstition that is most generally believed in is that a black cat brings ill luck. Last week as I was walking along a country road with a friend of mine a black cat ran across the road. My friend would not go on until he had turned around fifteen times. Other ways of breaking the evil charm of a black cat are: Turn in another direction, make a cross mark and spit in it, and turn one's pockets wrong side out, etc.

Ghosts are associated with darkness, old houses and cemeteries. A little distance from my house is a grave yard now filled with hedges, trees and flowers. People who live nearby claim that they can see each night spirits of the departed moving among the trees. People occupy these houses a short while, but soon move away.

Although people claim to be immune to superstition, I, the Spectator, by this paper, intend to show that the people of today are superstitious. If the Monroe-Charlotte foot ball game had occurred on Friday, the thirteenth, one would have heard many remarks about "our unlucky day." And did you ever hear of a wedding on Friday, the thirteenth? Almost anyone will tell you that a broken mirror means seven years bad luck. And there are innumerable others that I might mention. If any man thinks these superstitions incredible, let him enjoy his own opinion to himself and not disturb the beliefs of others.—The Spectator.

## Inventions We Hope For But Never Expect.

Did you ever think of the numerous inventions you would like to have but never expect to get? I have. And if there is any pupil in the Monroe High School who has not wished for some invention to help him on an exam. of which he was rather ignorant he is very extraordinary. Although we have one invention of this kind it does not help much because of the sharp eyes of the Latin teacher. This invention is the translator "pony," which is a drawback instead of a help.

I once heard a classmate remark that he wished noiseless soup spoons would be invented. Another remarked that he would rather have a knife that would hold peas so they wouldn't roll off. But getting down to real facts, wouldn't you like to have an instrument with which you could reach a person's mind? Or something with which you could talk to the spirit of some departed friend? And wouldn't you be glad if some great genius would perfect an invention with which we could communicate with Mars? There are a number of other suggestions I might suggest but just think for yourself of the many inventions you would like but never expect to have.—Hazel Davis.

## Adventures With a Balking Horse

One day as my father and I were going to town we got up on the top of a very high hill and the horse we were driving stopped. We tried

to make him go on by whipping him but that did not do any good, so we got out of the buggy and my father pulled his ears, twisted his tail and did a number of other things but it did not do any good. If anything, he stood there more quiet than ever. Finally we could not think of anything else to do so we built a fire under him. We thought that would make him go but he just moved up enough to let the buggy catch on fire and it did not hurt him. We decided the only thing to do was to take him out from the buggy and try to lead him. We did that and then he started off. We led him up the road a little distance and went back after our buggy and hitched him to it; then he went on to town without any more trouble.—Mattie Thomas.

## My Experience As a Cook

When I was small I had a great ambition to be a good cook. I would go into the kitchen and watch mother cook good things and it filled me with a desire to be able to do the same. Watching her from time to time filled me with determination. I said I would try to be a cook when I grew older.

I shall never forget my first attempt at cooking. One day when mother was sick I thought the time had come when my joy in cooking could be realized. With very little persuasion I secured her permission at biscuit making. She told me where to find the recipe but I was so assured of my success I did not feel the necessity of one. My biscuits were soon ready to bake. I had heated the stove until it was red, since mother told me to have it hot. I put them in and the telephone rang. I answered it and forgot all about my cooking. When I thought of my biscuits I ran to the kitchen but I was too late—they were black. When it came time for dinner I was ashamed to put my biscuits on the table but still I had it to do. The family did not say anything, but occasionally I would see a few smiles around the table acknowledging my failure. My next attempt was cake baking. Of course I selected my favorite chocolate cake. This time I was glad to profit by my past experience and use my recipe. After being so particular with my recipe I was sure of a success. I was not disappointed for when my cake was finished and sampled I was assured by all that Herzig's Bakery could not excel it. Coconut fudge was my next attempt. My first attempt was not quite as successful as I made a little later on. Being sure that recipes were very helpful, I soon achieved a great success not only in biscuit making but many other palatable dishes.—Dayle Gulleidge.

## My Opinion of Santa Claus

What would Christmas be without Santa Claus? In different countries he is known by different names, Kris Kringle, St. Nicholas and Santa Claus being the ones we hear most often. But whatever his name, the message he brings is the same everywhere.

Whether he puts his gifts into a small wooden shoe; or riding upon a big white horse he drops them down a chimney; or best of all, with merry sleigh bells and eight tiny reindeer, he comes, bringing joy and happiness to both young and old.

From my earliest recollections Santa has been a very real personage to me. Each Christmas has brought his mysterious visits and the gifts that appeared as if by magic.

As I grow older my faith in Santa is just as strong and I look forward to his coming with joy as real as when I was a little girl. But there is the difference. We miss the real meaning of his visit if we see only the material gifts he leaves and lose sight of the spiritual ones. It should mean a lesson in unselfishness and love for others. For those who have learned this, Santa's visit also means a coming of the Christ child.—Jessamine Austin.

## NEWS ITEMS

Every Friday afternoon instead of

our regular history lesson each pupil brings to class a current event which is read and discussed. We enjoy these current events very much because it helps us to keep up with what is going on in the world. There is a striking contrast in Thursday's lesson which is about the happenings of centuries ago and Friday's lesson about the happenings of the present year of 1922.

The High School girls are going to have a basket ball team this year with Miss Grace Henderson as coach. The court is being fixed now. All the grass has been removed and the ground leveled off. We hope to get our poles and baskets and all necessary equipment real soon and start our team. We want to have a team from each grade in High School so we can choose the best players from the various teams for our regular school team.

Two fine bulletin boards form the latest addition to the high school equipment. They have been placed at the front entrance and fill a long-felt need. Our pictures which were purchased at the art exhibit year before last are now being framed. They are copies of the great masterpieces and when distributed among the city schools will add much to the attractiveness of the buildings.

Instead of our monthly test the 9 C section of Home Economics prepared breakfasts. In planning the menu the occupation and age of each girl was considered because this information is essential in order to know the amount and kinds of food required by each one. Miss Bradley graded the girls very strictly because they have been studying the planning and preparation of breakfast menus for four weeks.

One of the most interesting features of the Home Economics work has been the making of the "Health Posters" by the girls in this department. These posters bearing such slogans as "Eat fruit for a ripe old age," "Say to health by the milk way," etc., showed both originality and artistic ability and will do much toward helping along the "Health Crusade" which is just being put on. In judging these posters several have been heard to say that they would be a credit to any college girl. This is quite a compliment to the High School girls who made them. The posters judged best were made by the following girls: Fannie Person Rudge, Martha Adams, Virginia Neal, Mable Hamilton and Jessamine Austin.

Mr. Starnes made a very interesting talk on "Perseverance" Friday morning during the chapel exercises. He brought out the fact that everyone had some failures in life, but could finally reach success by perseverance. He illustrated this by the story of George Westinghouse, who was disappointed time after time with his air brakes. He also told the story of Thomas A. Edison who performed 9000 experiments before he was able to perfect the storage battery.

# "Speak Louder"

Louder!  
Louder!



Louder!  
Louder!

During the course of a political meeting an address was being made by one of the candidates, who unfortunately had a weak voice.

One of the audience who was sitting near the back could not hear so well and began yelling, "Speak louder! Louder!"

Finally one of the opponents sitting near the front, becoming annoyed, arose and in a strong voice asked the gentleman in the rear, "What's the matter back there; can't you hear?"

"No," came the reply.

"Well, thank God, and sit down," advised the man in the front row.

Now, we do not want to yell too loud, but we want you to hear what we have to say:

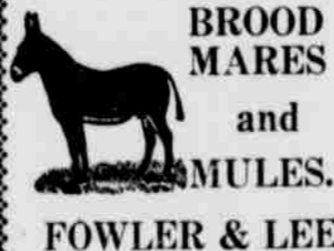
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ANNOUNCES

Trains 41, 44, 31 and 34 will be restored effective Wednesday November 1st. First train of 31 will be made West from Hamlet instead of Wilmington on that date.

This will restore the through local service of trains 31 and 34 between Charlotte and Wilmington that was discontinued during July.

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