

The Concord Daily Tribune
 J. B. SHERRILL, Editor and Publisher
 W. H. SHERRILL, Associate Editor
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BIRTHS ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES
 Many experts agree that the high infant mortality rate in North Carolina is due to a large extent to attendance of midwives at birth. Certainly in those counties where the midwives are most active the infant mortality rate is highest.
 In a survey carried in the University News Letter we rejoice to see Cabarrus among the leaders in the number of babies attended by physicians at birth. Only 22 counties in the State rank ahead of Cabarrus in this respect and most of them are counties with the largest cities. The percentage of negro births attended by midwives in Cabarrus in 1925 was 59.58 while the percentage of white births attended by midwives in the county in the same year was only 7.67.
 The survey in the News Letter shows that Gaston county makes the best showing with less than seven-tenths of one per cent of white births attended by midwives, the assumption being that the attendance of a doctor is preferable to that of a midwife at child-birth. Brunswick county ranks last with more than fifty-eight per cent of all white births in 1925 attended by midwives. Of the nearly fifty-eight thousand white children born in the state in 1925, eight thousand one hundred sixty-three were delivered by midwives.
 Six mountain counties report no negro births attended by midwives. All told, only twenty-seven negro children were born in 1925 in these six mountain counties. Dare county with nineteen negro births reports them all attended by midwives. In a large number of counties in eastern North Carolina with large negro ratios more than three-fourths of negro births were attended by midwives. In nine eastern counties more than ninety per cent of negro births were attended by midwives. Of the state total of 25,279 negro births reported, 17,825 or 70.55 per cent were attended by midwives.
 All told nearly twenty-six thousand births or about one-third of all births in North Carolina, white and black, were attended by midwives in 1925.
 Midwives appear to be more prevalent in the South than elsewhere. Quoting The Survey: "It was found that midwives were by far the more numerous in the Southern states. Thirty thousand out of the entire 45,000, practiced in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Virginia had 6,036 registered midwives, North Carolina 6,500, Mississippi 3,200, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New York had five thousand. The remaining 10,000 of the total 45,000 were scattered among 26 states, an average of only 400 to each."
 The Monthly Health Bulletin recently said, "The midwife of Robeson county is rather typical of the midwife of the South. Out of one hundred twenty-eight midwives registered, over one hundred are colored and only thirty-eight can read and write; the average age of each is fifty-six years, and the average number of confinements attended by each midwife annually is nine. Wassermanns were taken on sixty-three midwives and thirteen showed positive."
 Further quoting the same article, "These midwives are, except in rare instances, ignorant, untrained, incompetent

women, and some of the results of their obstetric incompetence, are unnecessary deaths and blindness of infants, and avoidable invalidism, suffering and deaths of mothers. In most European countries the midwife has been a fixed institution for hundreds of years, and receives a strict course of training and supervision by the government. The training of the midwives in Germany, where they are required to spend six months in a government obstetric hospital, under the instruction and supervision of trained obstetricians, is far superior to that which the great majority of physicians receive in this country before graduation. Holland, France, and Italy give a two-year, and Norway, Sweden, and Denmark a one-year course of training to their midwives. England faced this problem, and solved it as late as 1902 by the establishment of the 'Central Midwife Board,' by an act of Parliament entitled 'An Act to secure the better training of midwives, and to regulate their practice.' The system is somewhat similar to that of Germany, the midwife being trained in an obstetric hospital for six months, licensed after examinations by the Central Midwife Board, and their work supervised by the government. New York has established a training school for midwives, but it is too small to more than touch the problem in the city alone.

AT LEAST WORTH SAVING.

General Sherman gave an accepted description of war when he said "war is hell." No doubt he arrived at that conclusion after seeing hundreds of men killed and scores of others injured.

War is terrible and should be outlawed, but just the same we are killing more people in accidents than any war ever killed.

During the past year ninety thousand persons were killed in the United States and more than 2,500,000 were injured in accidents of all kinds.

A fourth of these were children under fifteen! These figures have been compiled by Charles E. Hill, General Safety Agent of New York Central, who has prepared a pamphlet for public distribution as a part of the railroad's contribution to the national safety campaign which is scheduled to be put on in all the schools of the country May 1 to 7.

Each day of last year, says Mr. Hill, 246 children under fifteen were killed and 7,000 injured in accidents, "twenty times the total casualty record of American soldiers during the World War."

What are we going to do about it? It is a common thing to hear about people valuing their children at a million dollars. Certainly we value them highly. How about the children of other people? We agree with the Winston-Salem Journal in the belief that "they are at least worth saving."

LONG STAPLE COTTON AGAIN.

Union county farmers are interested in long staple cotton this year. As a matter of fact the farmers down there get a premium every year for their cotton. They grow a longer staple than is grown on most farms around here. The Monroe Enquirer says:

"Local cotton buyers find ready market and indeed cannot supply the demand for 1 1/2-16 inch staple for which Union county is famous."

"T. J. W. Broom, our county agent, has been instrumental in securing co-operation of a great majority of farmers in planting the Mexican Big Boll, or like varieties, of cotton which produces the longer staples."

"Another thing which is gratifying, Union county farmers this year propose to plant every acre of cotton they can after growing home supplies in sufficient quantity for their needs. Union county is in fine shape and the farmers in good spirits."

We feel sure if enough Cabarrus farmers would produce long staple cotton they would profit thereby. Such cotton brings more on the market than the short staple variety and it takes no more time to produce it. In this part of the cotton growing section our people must resort to quality rather than quantity. We can not compete with the west in production but we can successfully compete with any other section in quality if we will just do it.

After an exhaustive survey covering a period of 25 years, boy and man, we have reached the definite conclusion that anything cooked with bacon with the single exception of eggs, injures the bacon.—Ohio State Journal.

Talking movies having been perfected some of the motion picture actors will have to brush up with a correspondence school course.—Pittsburgh Herald.

Although women are now wearing only about one-fifth of the clothes they wore 10 years ago, books in closets are just as scarce for husbands.—Louisville Times.

Henry Ford thinks the young folks of today are better than those of any other day. They are better as automobile drivers, at least.—Pittsburgh Gazette.

JACKSON NOT ALL BRUTE

Stanly News-Herald.
 We have been reading a series of articles carried in a well known magazine, dealing with incidents in the life of "Old Hickory" Jackson. The articles were very interesting, but we didn't like them for the reason that they only played up the blood and thunder side of that great warrior and statesman. The articles told of his duels and his rough and tumble fights, his political struggles, and really did not give exact justice to the man who, while rather rough, was yet tender. We looked for incidents in his life showing up the humane side of Jackson, but they were not in the articles, or were so few and far between, that the reader is inclined to get Andrew Jackson from the wrong angle.
 As a matter of fact "Old Hickory" was a born fighter. He apparently loved strife, and yet he was as tender as a woman. This is proven by a circumstance told by Kendall. After one of his battles with the Indians, Jackson's troops found an Indian woman who had been killed in the fight. Held in her lifeless arms when found was her baby, unhurt. The child, a boy, was carried to Jackson's headquarters at the same time the other Indian prisoners were delivered in camp. General Jackson's heart was touched with sympathy for the motherless and friendless little Indian baby. He attempted to hire some of the captured Indian women to nurse and care for the child, but none of them would take the job. "His folks are all dead, kill him, too," they told Jackson. But "Old Hickory" Jackson was too manly and too brave to allow such. He had a small quantity of brown sugar which he ordered one of his soldiers to use with a little water for the child's nourishment, as the little fellow seemed to be starving. In this way the baby was kept alive until the General and his attendants arrived back in a small town where he was sent to be nursed at Jackson's expense. Upon his return from the campaign this rough Old Fighter took the Indian baby home, named him Lincoyer, and with the willing aid of Mrs. Jackson, reared him as tenderly as if he had been his own son.
 We will leave it to any person who has made a study of men if that did not show up the real heart and character of Andrew Jackson in a more accurate light than all the tales of his duels and fights and battles.
 And yet the writer in the well known magazine, in the year 1927, never once related any such fine story of the man who was the subject of the articles written.

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.

Charity and Children.
 On the 4th day of May the Southern Baptist Convention will meet in Louisville, Ky., and continue in session until the following Sunday. Preliminary meetings will be held beginning on Monday, and thus practically the whole week will be covered. The prospect is good for a great gathering of Baptist people from the southern section of the United States especially, but from the north as well, a large delegation will be present from seminary men and women who will make the journey to Louisville to revisit scenes once familiar to their eyes, but now transformed into wondrous beauty with the new and splendid buildings and the grounds apart from the smelly city and with grasses and flowers that charm the eye. It will be a great convention, first because it is a great place to meet, and also because it is filled with the Baptist spirit. A strong effort will probably be made to divide the convention. It ought to be divided. The people beyond the Mississippi river are very different from those who live on this side. The western spirit is vigorous and strong. The people are pushing and enterprising. The churches are growing by leaps and bounds. The east is more conservative and somewhat slower, and less breezy, but more steady and reliable. Each convention would be large enough and both plenty, strong. The election of a new president will be one of the important matters before the convention. Dr. McDaniel, who served so well, declines to accept the office for another term on account of his health. Mention has been made of Dr. W. J. McGlothlin for this high and honorable place. He is the president of Furman University of Greenville and is a man of fine judgment and a master of parliamentary law. He would make as fine a president as the convention could select. The payment of debts on our boards will be the most important work before the convention. This debt question has troubled us for years, and every year rises up to demand attention. The question of evolution, let us hope, will not vex our people this year. So far as we know no other divisive question will arise to keep the convention from giving all its power to relieving our boards of the burden under which they are staggering.

DEMOCRACY'S SUCCESSOR.

Twin City Sentinel.
 "It is a fact of profound significance that Fascism should capture and hold and govern Italy, and that the small Communist party should seize upon a ruined and war-torn Russia and hold it against all comers. One has to admit that neither in Russia nor Italy do the masses of the population seem to resent the dictatorship of these associations."

Thus H. G. Wells protests in arguing for his theory that a "new phase in human affairs" is destined to make its appearance. Mr. Wells predicates this "new phase" upon the "belief that there is a profoundly serious minority the mass of our people is indifferent apathy." This minority he expects to see invested, or invest itself, with the power of government. For government then would be a "world-state ruled by a self-devoted organization of volunteers."

Whoever essays to take issue with Mr. Wells regarding the possibility of some such world-state superseding what is now called democracy must be prepared to answer the obvious fact that the great mass of people do not appreciate their functions as members of democracy. The majority of people make no effort to participate in the activities of government by democracy. They assign their obligations to the minority and are content to be ruled by it as long as they are comfortably fed and well attended to in respect to their other wants. But the minority is far from being ideal in its attitude or activities and stands in imminent danger of being supplanted by a minority that "is profoundly serious." Illustrations he adduces from Italy and Russia.

ON FOUR PER CENT BASIS.

News and Observer.
 "The Governor and State Treasurer have for a long time put the sale of State bonds at four per cent as the goal toward which the State should bend its efforts," said State Treasurer Lacy when the sale at that figure effected a saving of \$25,000 a year, or \$375,000 in the life of the 30-year serial bonds, in interest over the last bond sale. It speaks highly of the grasp and wisdom of the Governor and State Treasurer and speaks trumpet-tongued of the solidity and standing of the Commonwealth of North Carolina.

For some years the State has borrowed money at a comparatively low rate of interest for school districts to build public schools. This has saved much money. Where a city or county government is well managed, and can insure the State against loss, why is it not worth while for the Council of State to borrow money for local permanent improvements for the other departments of government at four per cent? Some of them now pay six and most of them five per cent.

Most of the people willing to surrender their convictions are in prison.—Winston-Salem Sentinel.

The modern idea of a closed city is to drive with one window open in a rough car.—Sydney Review.

NEARLY

By WICKES WAMBOLDT

A man called a telephone number. He thought he remembered the number, but when asked the person who answered the phone if that was the Bachelors' Club, and the person said no it was the Maternity Hospital, he discovered that his memory had erred, and he had missed his number by just one. He nearly got his number right, but he might as well have missed it by a thousand, or ten thousand, or ten million, as to have missed it by one, so far as results were concerned. If you miss your train by one minute you might as well have missed it by an hour or two hours.
 A man can nearly do a thing and be a complete failure. He can be just as complete a failure as though he had not nearly done the thing.
 "I almost got him to sign the contract," said a traveling representative, "but at the last minute he backed down." Getting the man to almost sign the contract didn't get anybody anything.
 Sometimes in spite of everything a man can do the nearest he can come to his goal is the fatal nearly. That plucky cool-headed air man, who jumped from his falling plane and clung to the rigging of a parachute in which a fellow aviator was descending to safety, and missed by an inch, might as well have missed by a mile as far as saving his life was concerned.
 Fate is grim. Fate is as cold blooded as a corporation counsel. You do or you don't, and that is all there is to it as far as Fate is concerned. A courageous effort and a plucky failure, a brave smile and an aching heart mean nothing to Fate unless success accompanies effort. But do success accompany effort? Who knows what that means? Who knows what is in the back side of Fate's head as she imperturbably looks on? No one can tell. There are those who assume to tell us all the inner workings of all the great unseen powers. But they are guessing. If they are convincing guessers they make folks think they know.
 Who knows what kindly feelings fate may have for the chap who does his best and fails trying? Who knows what advantage that gives him here and hereafter? One thing we do know: there is some law which we can see working out right here amongst us to the effect that the chap who tries and tries and tries, and keeps on trying his level best, eventually gets somewhere.

FRENCH DOCTORS FIND TUBERCULOSIS SERUM

Claim Serum Will Be Effective in Pulmonary Cases.

By HARRY B. FLORY
 (International News Service Staff Correspondent)

Paris, April 29.—Three famous French scientists claim to have practically solved the problem of finding an anti-tuberculosis serum for the cure of human pulmonary tuberculosis. Doctor Philippe A. Kfour, Professor Gabriel Petit of the Academy of Science and Professor Parnisset of the National Veterinary School at Alfort have worked for years on the problem.
 It was a foregone conclusion they declared that the serum would have to be derived from the blood of a person or animal afflicted with pulmonary tuberculosis. For various reasons it was impossible to take the blood of human patients.
 The scientists first experimented with dogs, rabbits and other animals, inducing in them pulmonary tuberculosis. The serum derived from their blood, however, was not of sufficient intensity to combat the disease in the human body.
 They next experimented with horses at the National Veterinary School, well known for their resistance to the disease. The problem was especially difficult since it was necessary to induce only pulmonary tuberculosis and not a general tubercular condition. These experiments have now succeeded, they claim.

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OVER SUNDAY TOURISTS



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