

# THE GAB BAG

By ALAN BROWNING, JR.

### A SURE SIGN OF OLD AGE

There was once a time not so very many years ago that we could sit down to a typewriter and turn out several thousand words of such idiotic nonsense that each of our nine readers would hasten to mail this newspaper their suggestions for a quiet retreat where we might receive some type of mental care, but it has become increasingly apparent to us of late that as we grow older we are losing the ability to do that to the extent that we don't even like to read what we write. And when the writer goes back on his own stuff, brother, that's bad.

Just the other day, for instance and also by way of illustration, we decided to do a column on the art of scratching. We figured that inasmuch as practically everybody at some time or another does a bit of scratching at some place or another, everyone who chanced to make the horrible mistake of straying into this department might find it of interest. For no matter what a person's status in society, all at some time or another itch, and insofar as we know at this writing, nothing has ever been developed that will relieve an itch like a good old-fashioned scratch, properly applied.

But as you will see, as you continue your aforementioned horrible

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erwise no lasting results may be expected.

In addition to the types of itches listed above, there are several others. Full information on the type of scratch necessary for them may be obtained by writing this column and enclosing \$1.00 in pennies on a postcard, giving name and return address. Address: Itch and Scratch Department, The Gab Bag, Elkin, N. C.

### ABOUT PEDDICORD

We have a cat at home known by name of Peddicord, who we thought to be normal up to a week before Christmas. But when we put up our Christmas tree we discovered that his greatest weakness is a love for eating the ornaments off the tree.

Of course Peddicord didn't eat any of those round colored balls, but he did devour a large amount of icicles, made of long strips of what we guess was tinfoil. At first we thought he was pulling them off the tree, one by one, just to play with them, but a close survey disclosed that he ate them much in the manner of a small boy eating spaghetti.

As you know, tinfoil is rather heavy, and we became alarmed after the first week of watching Peddicord eat it when we noticed he was walking around with a definite sag in his stomach. Evidently the tinfoil wasn't digest-

ing, and was accumulating in his stomach. We talked to him and told him what was happening, but cat-like, he ignored us and continued his diet of the stuff.

To make a long story short, Peddicord wound up the Christmas season by going around with his stomach dragging the floor until we rigged up a small platform with wheels upon which to support it. This has made him very unhappy, but after all, he brought it upon himself.

The Nazis have won Patmos Island where St. John wrote the Book of Revelations.

### Be Quick To Treat Bronchitis

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This is to notify the public that I have sold my interest as distributor of Gulf Oil Products to E. C. Boyles, effective as of December 15, and will not be responsible for any obligations made by the said E. C. Boyles after that date. All accounts receivable prior to December 15 should be paid to me, and all accounts payable up to that date will be paid by me.  
This December 15, 1943.  
1-13 R. L. CHURCH.

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