The Barrington Review

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W. T. LAMEY, Editor and Publisher.

Friday, February 24, 1905

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Wires, Wind and Weather.

To the goosebone, the muskrat skin, the appearance of the moon, corns and rheumatic joints has been added a new standard of popular weather prognostication found in the alleged close connection between the varying notes of humming telegraph and telephone wires and the weather of the following few days. This discovery was made by Herr Bock, a German whose title of professor gives to his announcement a certain degree of credibility. The humming of the wires, the professor explains, is influenced by the strength of the wind, the tension of the wires and "various causes which are in turn affected by temperature and other atmospheric conditions." Of course the official forecasters treat Herr Bock's method of observation with derision, as they do all attempts to foretell the weather from phenomena within the sight and hearing of the common herd. Nevertheless the weather bureaus are very far from infallible. While their system of collecting at a central point data gained from observations at many different points gives them an advantage over the ordinary citizen in predicting the course of general storms, the public still has to depend very largely for its information regarding local disturbances upon those signs which Adam doubtless noted in the garden of Eden. One would hardly be justified in making affairs of great pith and moment hang upon his own weather predictions, but it may be worth while to pay some attention to the simple signals which our forefathers found so useful.

The Jury In German Law.

To say that trial by jury is itself on trial in some parts of this country is not wide of the mark. A very prominent leader at the bar recently declared that if all the cases in which he had been a participant had been decided by a throw of dice instead of by jury verdict more substantial justice would have been secured.

Trial by jury is a feature of criminal procedure in Germany and in one or two important points bears upon reforms proposed in some of the states. In addition to the twelve who constitute the regular jury in Germany one or more supplementary jurors are drawn. These alternates take part in the trial, says a writer in the current issue of the Political Science Quarterly, and have the same right in proposing motions as the regular jurors. They do not retire with the jury nor participate in the verdict, but should one of the regular jurors be incapacitated at any stage an alternate takes his place.

For the affirmative of guilt a majority of two-thirds is necessary. It takes eight to convict, but only five to acquit. In questions of "mitigating circumstances" a simple majority may decide its denial. A tie in such a question is held to be an answer in the affirmative.

In Germany a jury may amend its verdict up to the very point where the court pronounces judgment. The court on its own motion may refer the case for a new trial, but the jury's verdict on this second trial must stand.

An automatic gambler has beat the famous bank at Monte Carlo. If gambling must be, there is reason in backing a machine against human nature. It is all a matter of chance, and a cold blooded automaton will play on and on and never get rattled over gains and losses.

TOLSTOI AND THE CZAR.

Why Russian Ruler Does Not Exile the Great Writer.

For many years Count Leo Tolstoi has been the most outspoken critic of the czar and the Russian empire, yet he has never been molested. He has said things openly that would have caused the banishment or imprisonment of another man. The reason for his freedom is described in an article by Vance Thompson in Success Magazine for February as follows:

Tolstoi owes his miraculous freedom not to state policy. He owes it to the czar.

Nicholas II., whose realm runs over forty degrees of latitude and who is considered the sole representative of his subjects of God upon earth, is himself a Tolstoist. The czar is a kindly, overworked, unhappy man. He writes vague, melancholy verses, rides a bicycle and takes amateur photographs—his amusements are few. Tolstoi's books appealed to the Slavic mysticism in him, accorded with his dreamy love of humanity and woke in him aspirations for peace on earth and the fulfillment of the early Christians' dreams of fraternity and equality in love. He reads Tolstoi; he talks Tolstoi—as Edward VII. reads the racing guide and talks horses and as William II. reads everything and talks everything. Between the czar, imprisoned in absolute ty, and the free old man of Iasnaia Poliana there is a strange bond of sympathy, both mental and spiritual.

An earlier czar, Paul, had a similar feeling for Tolstoi when he was still little more than a lad. The young Leo N. Tolstoi was at Sevastopol, shut up in the famous and terrible "Bastion II." To the general in chief of his armies in the Crimea Czar Paul wrote with his own hand: "Bear in mind this young officer. No disaster must be allowed to happen to this young man, who does so much honor to Russia." Yet in those days he had not written much. But the Tolstois had always been favorites of the crown—from that early ancestor who was a boon companion of Peter the Great down to his father and Leo N. Tolstoi himself. Every official, every functionary, in Russia knows that to touch Tolstoi is to touch the czar. Though they have never met, his friendship for Tolstoi is almost a cult. Not all his ministers and not the mighty band of archdukes can change his mind in this matter, should they care to do so, and the government, as distinct from the czar, has its own reasons for leaving Tolstoi all this "liberty which binds him."

ANTIMICROBE CRUSADE.

Chicago Physicians' Rules on the Dodging of Germs.

Don't let the baby play on the floor.

Don't eat white bread.

Don't leave your mouth open when sweeping, and if you do wear gauze over it.

For every five persons in the room burn one gas jet.

Arrest gentlemanly looking individuals that spit on the sidewalk.

Arrest women wiping up the pavement with long skirts.

Place policemen at the entrances of downtown shops and arrest all who fail to observe these rules.

Follow these rules very closely, and germs will disappear.—Advice Given by Chicago Physicians.

Dr. C. E. Humison and other speakers at a symposium recently held under the auspices of the Chicago Medical society at the Public library in Chicago thus began their antigerm crusade. Each point was elaborated and elucidated and punctuated with citations from the theory of evolution until germs took on enormous proportions, says the Chicago Inter Ocean.

Poorly ventilated office buildings were said to be germ incubators.

A policeman not only should be stationed before downtown shops to quickly nab a man who, though of gentlemanly appearance, still is inclined to spit, but after taking the man to the station he should lie him back to that spot and wait for the woman with long skirts, that he might also gather her in as an example of antigerm offenders.

Women when sweeping should wear gauze over their mouths, the doctor said, so that the germs now so prevalent in all homes might not take refuge in the throats of the housewives.

Treasure Box In Stockings.

Practical pockets or receptacles for surplus change will be presented to the women depositors of a New York bank. They will be for the particular use of the pocketless woman, the one who conceals her wealth in her hosiery, says the New York Journal. The women of the West End Republican club were jubilant when they heard of the original scheme at their recent meeting at the Hotel Astor in New York. M[illegible]

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FURNISHING AN APARTMENT

Some Hints For Those Who Have Limited Space.

The first thing in choosing an apartment is to have the landlord repaper such of the walls as are not light and cheerful in tone. As a rule, the rooms in apartment houses are small and none too well lighted, so that pale tinted effects are by far the best.

If you buy new furniture remember that the smaller it is the better. Anything heavy or so clumsy that it will not fit well into corners is decidedly

A DRAWING ROOM.

out of place in an apartment. Put as little furniture as possible into each room and cover the floors with rugs so that they can easily be cleaned. Heavy pictures are entirely out of place. Gilt or light wood frames are best, and the more cheerful the tones of the pictures the better.

A round dining room table takes up less room than a square one and is far prettier.

In the sketch is shown a simple drawing room the tone of which is old rose. The furniture is on the Chippendale order and does not take up much room.

R. DE LA BAUME.

A Negro Woman's Industrial School.

"At least," say the southern people, "in the old slave days the negroes were trained to useful work. The men learned carpentering, blacksmithing and other trades, and the women were skilled cooks, nurses and seamstresses. The generation of free negroes that has grown up since the civil war can do nothing, and the blacks are often idle and vicious." A young colored woman, Jennie Dean, of Manassas, Va., realized the truth of this charge against her people better even than the whites did and set herself to remedy it. She had only good health, determination and an expert knowledge of cookery. Behold! With that capital she has established and now maintains an industrial school farm of 126 acres. It has a dozen excellent buildings, in which are taught to negro boys and girls skilled trades of all kinds. Girls learn cooking, sewing, general housework and child's nursing. Those who desire are also perfectly trained in poultry raising and dairying. The name of the enterprise is the Manassas Industrial school. Jennie Dean saved her own wages as an expert cook. She next roused the ambition of the negroes themselves around Manassas. White friends both north and south aided Jennie in her work. The mayor of Manassas says the empty jail of his town is due to Jennie Dean's industrial school.

MARCIA WILLIS CAMPBELL.

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Notice of Final Settlement.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, } ss. In the County Court
COUNTY OF LAKE, } Lake County. In Probate.

In the matter of the final settlement of the Estate of Guy M. Fisher, Deceased

To Clarence J. Fisher and to the unknown heirs of Clarence J. Fisher Sr., heirs at law of said decedent:

Take notice, that on the 25th day of April, A. D., 1905, at 10 o'clock a. m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard the undersigned will present to the Probate Court at the Court House, in the city of Waukegan, in said County his final account as administrator of said estate, and ask that the same be approved; that the said estate be declared settled and the undersigned discharged from his said office; at which time and place you are notified to be present if you so desire.

MILES T. LAMEY,
Administrator of the Estate of Guy M. Fisher, Deceased.

Barrington, Illinois, February 17, A. D. 1905.

The Chicago Examiner

THE EXAMINER, the leading morning paper of Chicago, has just announced a unique Proverb Educational Contest, in which it proposes to give away 50 prizes to successful contestants, ranging in value from $5.00 to $500.00. First prize, $500.00; total amount to be given away, about $3,000.00; contest commencing February 27th and containing one well-known proverb daily for fifty days.

This contest will create a widespread interest, and THE EXAMINER is advising that orders be given to the newsdealers at once, or send 90c for a three months' mail subscription, and get the home and general newspaper published, addressing all orders to THE CHICAGO EXAMINER, Chicago, Ill.

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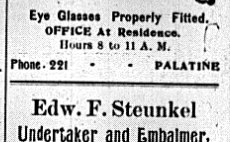

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