

THE MASQUERADE OF LIFE.

M. V. THOMAS.

Come, wile away those tears, dear; Hide all these signs of pain; What if your heart is aching? Pretend you are happy again.

Your grief is hard to bear, now, That throbbing heart, so sad. But if you want to triumph Just pretend that you are glad.

Destructive Forest Fires.

According to forest statistics issued recently by the Department of Forestry, Pennsylvania lost \$850,000 from forest fires in 1915.

1,101 fires were reported for the year. They burned over 42,000 acres of the State Forests, and 295,000 acres of private forest land.

The causes are given as follows: Railroads, 274 fires, doing \$185,000 damage; brush burning on dry or windy days, 105 fires, doing \$35,000 damage; incendiary, 102 fires, doing \$98,000 damage; carelessness of hunters, fishermen, and campers, 136 fires, doing \$108,000 damage; lightning, 19 fires, doing \$2,000 damage; miscellaneous, 37 fires, doing \$52,000 damage; unknown, 382 fires, doing \$365,000 damage.

Department officials say that reasonable care would have prevented practically all the fires except those caused by lightning, and a few which started from burning buildings.

The average fire covered 300 acres, did damage estimated at \$775, and cost \$30 to extinguish. Half the fires covered from 100 to 1,000 acres each, and 77 are reported as having burned over more than 1,000 acres each, or about sixty per cent of the total burned area.

The \$850,000 loss is the direct loss from burned timber only. The indirect loss cannot be computed accurately, but it is estimated at from \$15,000,000 in estimate are included the loss to labor caused by keeping unproductive 5,000,000 acres of forest, every acre of which is burned over once in ten years; the loss in floods, water famines, and impure water supply, caused by the burning of the humus and litter on the forest floor, which is Nature's filter; the loss in taxes, due to depreciation in value of the burned forests, which amounts to \$300,000 a year; and the loss to agricultural crops, which suffer from the reduced humidity of the air where no forests are present to give off moisture.

The New Bureau of Forest Protection, created by an act passed at the last session of Legislature, has reorganized the forest fire warden system of the State on a non-political basis, making appointments only on merit. The cooperation of the game and fish wardens, rural mail carriers, employees of the State Highway Department, and the State Police, has been secured. Including the foresters and rangers in the Pennsylvania Forest Service, the total number of wardens is now about 1,800.

The Bureau has \$45,000 available for its work of prevention and extinction of forest fires for two years. Since it cost \$32,000 for one year for extinction only, it is evident that preventive measures can be taken, or much relief expected until sufficient funds are appropriated.

Clean, Palatable Feed Will Protect Milk from Taint.

D. B. Eppers, of the dairy department of the Pennsylvania State College, in outlining some of the essentials for the production of clean milk, emphasizes the necessity of feeding palatable and nutritious feeds which are free from mould or decay or any other defects which might injure the health of the cow or impair the quality of the milk.

Care should be exercised in feeding roots and plants such as rape, cabbage, turnips and other feeds with strong odors. These should be offered after milking, and the portions not eaten removed from the stable at least three hours before milking. Cows that are allowed to graze in fields containing wild onions or garlic should be removed from the fields several hours before milking time.

Many objections have been raised in the past to the feeding of silage but these complaints are diminishing each year. Silage does not impart unpalatable flavors to milk as many have contended. The presence of such in the milk may be due to a poor grade of silage, improper feeding or the absorption of the odor from the stable air. A reasonable amount of a good quality of silage should be removed before the next milking so that the stable air will not impart the odor to the milk.

The cow should have access to a clean supply of salt, and as much fresh, pure water as she will drink should be provided. Under ordinary conditions a cow will drink three times as much water as she gives milk, i. e., if she gives 30 pounds of milk she will require 90 pounds of water per day. Water is essential, not only for milk production, but also for food digestion. In cold weather the chill should be removed from water offered to the cows.

Warns Gasoline Owners.

From Oklahoma comes a warning to automobile owners and motorists of the danger of using a chamois skin as a strainer for gasoline.

Ross Brooks, chief of the Oklahoma City fire department, says not one motorist in a dozen knows that he is literally taking his life in his hands when he pours his gasoline through a funnel in which he has placed a chamois skin to act as strainer.

Statistics of the fire departments of many large cities show that a large percentage of auto fires are caused by this simple practice.

"Static electricity" explains the chief, "is formed by the friction of the gasoline passing through the chamois, which a careless motorist may generate into a spark, causing a frightful explosion, which has several times occurred in the midst of a party of motorists, and the cause of which has until recently remained a mystery.

"So long as the funnel fits tightly into the mouth of the tank there is no danger. But when the funnel is held in the hand, or is separated from the conductor (in this case the metal tank) it becomes charged with one of the most powerful and deadly agents in the world, electricity. In many cases the motorist goes on his way, not knowing that he brushed elbows with death.

For, unless a ground is formed as the gasoline filters through the chamois, a spark will inevitably leap from the funnel to the nearest point of contact with the tank.

"Many persons have been burned and scarred for life and several have been killed, through ignorance of this electrical phenomenon. Formerly somebody was supposed to have inadvertently struck a match when these sudden explosions occurred, but now investigation shows that the true reason is due to the fatal oversight of using the chamois skin in a suspended funnel.

"The moral of the whole thing is, never, under any circumstances, put gasoline through a chamois skin. The danger always exists, for electricity is a peculiar agent and it is an impossibility to know when the funnel being used so innocently by the ignorant motorist has received its maximum capacity of the static current."

College Offers Suggestions for Hog Cholera Treatment.

With the approach of the open spring weather farmers should be on guard against the appearance and spread of hog cholera in their herds. Suggestions for the prevention and treatment of hog cholera as outlined by the Pennsylvania State College School of Agriculture and Experiment Station include the following:

- 1. Feed clean food and properly balanced rations. 2. Keep troughs clean and free from dirt and filth, and disinfect pens with a dip solution once a week. 3. Put all new hogs in quarantine for two weeks before putting them in with the clean herd; never peddle a boar and for service; never breed to a peddled boar, nor allow a boar to serve strange sows. 4. Watch out for birds and dogs as carriers of infection; never allow a neighbor to enter the hog pen if there is a strange disease among his hogs, and keep away from his pen also. 5. Keep a mixture of charcoal, salt and sulphur in a clean, dry place where it will be accessible to hogs all the time. 6. In an outbreak notify a competent veterinarian or the Live Stock Sanitary Board, Harrisburg. 7. In case of hog cholera remove healthy hogs from infected pens and vaccinate them. 8. Burn dead hogs and refuse, clean up pens and thoroughly disinfect premises.

The New Commandments.

- 1-Remember that I am thy wife. Whom thou shouldst cherish all thy life. 2-Thou shalt not stay out late at night when worldly trifles invite. 3-Thou shalt not smoke indoors or out, Nor chew tobacco roundabout. 4-Thou shalt with praise receive my pies, Nor pastry made by me despise. 5-My mother thou shalt strive to please, And let her live with us in ease. 6-Remember 'tis thy duty clear To dress me well, however dear. 7-Thou shalt in manner duly meek Give me thy wages once a week. 8-Thou shalt not be a drinking man But keep the prohibition ban. 9-Thou shalt not flirt, but must agree To leave that privilege for me. 10-Thou shalt arise when baby cries And bid him close his little eyes. These ten commandments day by day Thou shalt implicitly obey. -Seneca (Mo.) News-Dispatch.

Regarding Chestnut Blight.

Since the Chestnut Blight Commission has passed out of existence, the Department of Forestry has been keeping an eye on the situation in Pennsylvania. Recently the statement has been made frequently that the blight has run its course and is gradually dying out in the State. To discover the truth of this statement, the Department addressed a circular letter to fifty-four of its foresters, covering forty counties, asking if the blight was spreading, receding, or apparently stationary in their districts.

Replies have been received from fifty-one of the foresters. Twenty-eight report the blight spreading rapidly; eight report that it is apparently stationary; one reports it receding; and fourteen report no blight on or near their forests.

The infection reported farthest west is in northwestern Clearfield county; that farthest east in central Pike county; that farthest north in northwestern Tioga county; and that farthest south near the Maryland line in Franklin county.

A skirt yoke of sheer material, marquisette stitched to taffeta. One of the prettiest of ways to accommodate the great fullness in skirts is to gather it to a yoke which is already full. That bodices are tight is undisputed, and above the full skirt yoke a rather tight fitted bodice, buttoned snugly up and down the front and seams, over the bust.

-Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Y. W. C. A. MILESTONES OR CONTRASTING THE YEARS.

FIFTY YEARS AGO 1866-1876 TO-DAY Feb. 1-7, 1916

Fifty years! A long look backward, but how golden may be the achievements of such a period of time.

Fifty years ago in the classical city of Boston, thirty earliest women met to consider the needs of girls who came to that city to seek employment. The needs of these girls led to the organization of the first Young Women's Christian Association in this country, which was effected March 3rd, 1866.

Down-town rooms were opened. Miss Mary Foster was called as the first general secretary and the work was launched!

The work at that time was largely that of an employment bureau, but educational classes, both vocational and cultural and religious meetings were also held.

Hartford, Connecticut; Providence, R. I.; Pittsburgh and Allegheny, Pa., in 1867, and Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio, and St. Louis, Missouri, in 1868 followed by forming similar societies called.

Women's Christian Associations. Others in the Mississippi Valley took the name of Young Women's Christian Associations.

On October 9th and 10th, 1871, delegates from nine Women's Christian Associations met at Hartford and formed what later bore the name of the International Conference of Women's Christian Associations.

The first Young Women's Christian Association building was erected in Hartford, Connecticut in 1872. Heretofore they had been purchased and remodelled.

The first student Association was organized at Normal, Illinois, in 1873.

The first summer home was opened at Asbury Park, New Jersey, in 1874.

Forty Years Ago 1876-1886 TO-DAY Feb. 8-14, 1916

Forty years ago gymnasium work of to-day was unknown, but calisthenics— which was more training in grace of movement than in healthful bodily vigor— was first taught in 1877 by a boarder in the Boston boarding home.

In 1884 Boston opened the first Association gymnasium for women in America in their building in Berkeley street.

Boston led the country in establishing cooking classes and domestic training in 1879.

In 1883 Boston gave the first series of emergency lectures.

Heretofore there had been practically unconnected local Associations. In 1884 State Associations made up of the various local Associations were formed in Michigan, Ohio and Iowa.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN

DAILY THOUGHT. Love all, trust a few, be false to none. -Shakespeare.

It may be the result of the feminist movement, or merely a whim, but women are claiming the masculine advantage of pockets. This season pockets large or pockets small are a feature of many of the new gowns. Another point in many of the spring dresses is that the sheer material of the skirt is carried above the belt.

Last August Callot showed a smart satin cape on a satin dress. This cape has now become a prominent feature in fashions, and for the spring pretty cape collars—or little shoulder capes—appear on both dresses and coats. It drops over the shoulders in a deep effect and supports above it a collar of sheer material, which stands up around the throat but by no means fits it. Cuffs of sheer organdy complete the deep turned-back cuffs of the material, which finish the rather full sleeve.

Box-plaited ruching, especially the very narrow, peaky variety, is decidedly in evidence this spring and is used delightfully around the bottom of bodices and to edge cuffs. Cherit has used this quilting on a deep pocket effect at the sides of a pretty faille model, and the house of Callot has placed it in a narrow width around the bottom of the skirt of a pretty spring model.

A charming sleeve which is especially good when made of chiffon or any other transparent fabric, is slightly gathered at the armhole, and at the dropped shoulder line a great deal of fullness is attached. In some instances the fullness is added under machine stitching and in others under picot-edging. The sleeve drops very full to below the elbow, where it is caught by two bands of ribbon tied in tiny bows.

A point in materials which is interesting is that satin and serge, or taffeta and serge, will be combined. A close fitting waist with its flaring peplum appears in a Jenny suit of dark blue taffeta; the full peplum is edged with a band of blue serge. Both the combination of two materials and the tight waist and the flaring ruffle-like effect of the peplum are marked features of spring fashions. Some of the peplums, to be sure, will be a little longer than others.

Cherut, who has always had the knack of making charming collars, has designed a deep cape collar for a spring model which sets away from the neck and is not unlike a shawl collar in the back. This type of collar is made much of in the fashions of spring, and indeed capes themselves are favored, for Chanel has frankly made one, two, or three capes on suits of jersey cloth. And speaking of jersey cloth, enough can be said about its advantages. Heretofore it has been used in bright colors for country suits, but now in darker colors it is used also for dresses, and for town as well as for country wear.

Hot Slaw.—Shred the cabbage finely, as for cold slaw or cabbage salad, boil rapidly in salted water until tender, and drain thoroughly. Make meanwhile a sauce of one tablespoonful of butter, half a teaspoonful of salt, a little pepper and cayenne, and, if it is liked sharp, as

HIS LOVE FOR GOOD HORSE FORESIGHT MADE HIM RICH

Ex-Secretary of State Knox Relates How Its Origin Was Revealed to Him.

I have always loved a horse and for many years I was at a loss to discover the reason for my affection. It did not come from early association with him.

The mystery of my passion was finally solved. My gentle mother, of whom Dr. John A. Brashear, the great astronomer, once wrote, "she was more nearly a wingless angel than anyone I have ever known," being on her way to the Pacific coast, stopped several days with me at my home in Pittsburgh. Yielding to my persuasion, to the charm of a brilliant October afternoon, and to my specific promise that I would drive slowly, she, notwithstanding her seventy-five years, went for a drive with me behind as quiet and swift a little mare as could be desired.

With literal adherence to my promise Dolly jogged along and we enjoyed the day. Presently an alertness in the mare, which could be felt rather than seen, indicated something coming behind. With one eye on the little lady in the seat and the other on the one in the shafts I let the latter have her way gradually without seeming to disturb the former. In a moment we were stepping some, but not enough, for with a whiz and a cloud of dust we had been passed. This was a new experience for the mare. She reared it and was soon in full pursuit. I had not yet gotten fully into the game. I still felt the restraint of my promise and while hesitating what to do I felt a motion at my side and turning saw my mother tightening her bonnet strings and in tones of excited pleasure she said, "There, Phil, there is a wide place; you can pass him there," and we did.

I have never since doubted where I got my love for a horse.—Former Secretary Philander C. Knox, in the Breeders' Gazette.

Increased Safety for Autos.

The automobile has been found to be such an important feature of the war operations that the German government has undertaken to increase the efficiency of the motor car by keeping the roads free of glass. Drastic orders have been issued on this subject, and the school children in all parts of the country have been instructed to look carefully over the roadways which they have to pass, and to pick up every bit of broken glass, or sharp piece of metal, which might be injurious to automobiles. Persons who are seen to drop glass or bottles upon the highways are subjected to severe reprimand on the first occasion and to a fine on the second.

Motorists who in former years have been suffering from the broken glass and sharp tacks on roads and streets declare that the order has cleaned the roads as if by magic, and that punctures or blowouts are rare things at present.

Latest Glass Substitute.

As a substitute for glass in the equipment of automobiles and many other similar uses, a product has been brought out recently in Germany and is now being subjected to rigid tests in various shapes at the scene of war. It is known as "cellon" and has many remarkable qualities. It is almost unbreakable by ordinary handling. Sheets of this material can be bent backward and forward many times without breaking; blocks of this transparent product can be subjected to blows without showing fracture; it can be produced in any desired thickness. Clear and completely transparent, light or dark colored, mottled or even black, it can be used for the manufacture of all objects now made of celluloid. Its chief advantage over celluloid is its safety against fire. A sheet of cellon may be ignited by an open flame.

China and Christianity.

The progress of the Christian religion in China under the policy of "very benevolent neutrality" practiced by Yuan Shi-kai is noteworthy. During the last year, it is said, over 700 high officials, merchants and literati have enrolled in Bible classes. The churches in Peking—12 in all—are filled to overflowing with new adherents, and several of them have enlarged their quarters. It is not unusual to see meetings held under Christian auspices attended by audiences of 3,000 students. Yuan Shi-kai himself recently made a big contribution to the work of the Methodist college in Peking.

Powerful Electric Hammer.

An electric hammer of new design has recently been evolved by a leading American electrical manufacturer. Briefly, the new hammer consists of a high-speed, series-wound electric motor driving an eccentric mechanism through reduction gearing; the mechanism, in turn, operating a plunger which is virtually the hammer. A sleeve is provided in which the drill or hammer rod may be inserted, so that it can be rapidly struck by the plunger.

Chinese Like Tobacco.

The introduction of the tobacco habit among the Chinese dates back only a few years, and its spread throughout the country has been astonishingly rapid, so it is stated by Consul General Anderson at Hongkong. The cigarette habit is not confined to men. Girls and women of all classes and ages, from ten years of age upward, indulge as freely and openly in cigarettes, with as much apparent enjoyment, as do their brothers.

Oppose C. Triches in Harness.

The Humane society of Los Angeles, Cal., has taken up arms against the use of the ostrich in harness and has introduced a measure seeking to make their use for that purpose unlawful. Some of the reasons advanced are: The birds are dangerous because they are liable to kick in any direction; they violate the speed laws and they are a menace to traffic because, with their well-known fondness for hard-wares, they are apt to eat auto accessories, licenses, tail lights, etc.

Missouri Druggist's Investment in Quinine Before the War Proved Good Speculation.

One does not have to live in a large town to find an opportunity to make a fortune. The opportunities are everywhere. It is only the man with his eyes open who sees them.

Druggist Dimmitt of Rochester, Mo., who remembered the demand for quinine during the Civil war, had his eyes open for he bought 10,000 ounces of quinine a little more than a year ago at 14 cents an ounce. His judgment proved correct, for the quinine that cost him \$1,400 is now worth \$25,000, and it may go higher.

He has had nothing to do with increasing the price. It is the demand that is putting it up. A philanthropist might argue that it is a crime to make money out of the necessities of the sick; but philanthropists who refuse to turn an honest penny when the opportunity offers are few and far between. Some of them do not indulge in philanthropy as a recreation until they have accumulated a large surplus by squeezing the last cent of profit from every transaction. In the meantime the Dimmitts of big towns and little ones are doing their best to qualify themselves for benevolence by making hay while death wields the scythe.

KILLS HIMSELF AS HE SLEEPS

New York Physician Makes Fatal Use of Revolver When He Dreams of Battle.

Dr. Arthur L. Reeve, Brooklyn, shot and killed himself in bed. His wife, who was asleep at his side, said that she believes he took his life while in the grip of a nightmare. Mrs. Reeve was awakened by the shot. She reached over and touched her husband, but he did not move.

"It was purely an accident," said Mrs. Reeve later. "He dreamed he was battling with someone, and reached under his pillow, got the revolver he always kept there, and shot himself while asleep."

Mrs. Reeve added that two nights before her husband had a nightmare, during which he wandered around the house, being awakened when he bumped his head against a door. She said that sometimes in his dreams the physician would cry out with fright. There was no reason for him to commit suicide, she said.

Unique Heating System.

Whether it is practical or not, the new system of heating for homes devised by a Swedish inventor certainly has the distinction of being unique. It is designed for houses of from four to ten rooms and is especially intended for localities where electrical current is inexpensive. The system consists of two tanks, a motor-driven rotary pump and the necessary radiators and piping. One of the tanks is thermally insulated. In it are placed the heating units, which, normally, are only operated at night, when the rates for electric current are low. In the morning the units are disconnected from the supply circuit and the motor-driven pump started. The water flows down the piping and through the radiators by the force of gravity and is collected in a receiving tank in the basement, from where it is pumped out and returned to the tank in the attic.

Soup Kitchens for Birds.

The establishment of "soup kitchens" for the birds in the cemeteries and city parks has been proposed by A. J. Watson, scout commissioner, who offers to have Boy Scouts maintain them if the scout necessary is furnished free, states the Kansas City Star. He also calls on all scouts to feed the hungry birds about their homes until the snow has melted fully.

Nitric Acid Needed.

Since the outbreak of the world war the need of an added abundance of nitrogen has become doubly apparent. Nitric acid goes into the making of munitions; the manufacture of nitroglycerin, dynamite, gun cotton, smokeless powder and trinitrotoluol are absolutely dependent upon fixed nitrogen. Many synthetic medicines would be denied to humanity but for the metamorphosing powers of nitrogen, and for the millions that have been stricken by its violence hundreds of thousands have been helped back to health and strength through this same element in its beneficent moods.

Hints for Making Candy.

When a syrup has boiled long enough to spin a fine thread when dropped from spoon or fork, it has reached the "hairing" or "threading" stage, and after that it should not be stirred or it is apt to granulate. Should fondant stick to the hands, dip fingers in alcohol. After a boiled syrup is beaten, it should look like lard, otherwise it was not allowed to cool sufficiently before beating was begun. Use fresh ice cold water for each trial of candy. Butter should not be added to candy until it is almost done. Flavors are more delicate when not boiled in candy, but added afterward.

—Watch for the Woman's club cabaret entertainment Easter week.