

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., May 11 1923.

AT THE FORK OF THE ROAD.

When you lose your way on a lonesome road,
Whose course you do not know,
And your thoughts extend to the journey's end,
But your progress there is slow;
If you're off the track you can still turn back
To see what the sign post showed,
But the time to decide that you need a guide
Is just at the fork of the road.
When you fall to heed a warning sign
On the broad highway of life,
And enter in, through the street of sin,
To sorrow, pain and strife,
How sad to learn, though you may return
You must reap what you have sowed,
But all your tears and wasted years
Could be saved at the fork of the road.
As long as the road lies straight ahead,
The journey of life is bright;
It's the setting sun when the day is done
That leads to the gloom of night.
You will not go wrong as you go along
If you study each crossing code;
It is well worth while to save a mile,
Or a life, at the fork of the road.

NOT TO BE FOOLED WITH.

By L. A. Miller.

When a cold-headed woman sets herself to entrap a man she is very apt to succeed, especially if she is nearing that age when ladies object to leaving the family record where every Tom, Dick and Harry can get at it. She may love him, and she may not. If she does not she will probably tie him with her apron strings, and go on striving to catch one who suits her better; you may be sure she will not let her prisoner loose until after she has entrapped another more to her liking.

She is not to blame for trying to get a lover to her taste, but it is not exactly right for her to keep a poor fish on the bait-line until it is starved and worn out, and then throw it back into the stream again when she gets another. There is probably more dishonesty practiced in match-making than in any other branch of business pertaining to society. Shrewd, ambitious mamma resort to a variety of tricks to get their children well fixed in life; but not more than the children themselves. They study to seem what they are not, adopt methods which would be considered dishonorable in business affairs, and bring influence to bear that would shock a politician.

Men profess to be highly moral, put on the appearance of being in easy circumstances, and even go so far as to make great pretensions as to what they are worth. The fact may be exactly the reverse of all this; their sole object being to get wives who are able to keep them. The woman who falls a prey to a swindler of this stamp is truly an object for pity, but not more so than the man who gets roped in by a woman who marries merely to keep out of the old maid row. If one of these biters happens to get bitten—and they often do—they are not entitled to sympathy, although it is a terrible thing to live the cat and dog life, which is almost sure to follow a union of this kind. Sheel itself cannot be worse. There is no rest, no happiness, no comfort, but it is their own choosing and they must abide the consequences.

However, the young man who is not smart enough to discover that he is being played for oysters, ice cream, picnics, balls, operas, etc., deserves to be pinched severely. It may be no fault of his that he is so short-sighted, for he may have been born that way, yet a real hard pinch may improve his sight. The same may be said of a majority of young ladies who suffer from laceration of the heart. In nearly all savage tribes, lovers are put to test, to prove their sincerity. Some of these are severe and trying. The dusky brides of Morocco must be captured by their lovers after having been given a fair chance to escape. If the lover is not specially anxious to find her, he can easily scurry off in the wrong direction. She also has an opportunity to hide so effectually that it is almost impossible to find her. If, however, she is anxious to be caught, and he is desirous of catching her, the race is usually short, tame and decisive.

Civilization refuses to sanction any style of test beyond that of public marriage. In many instances the conviviality and brilliancy of these occasions are more of an incentive to marriage than a test of affection.

Young people should be honest enough toward each other to make their intentions known. If they are going together for fun, it had better be so understood. If the friendship develops into love there will be no trouble in adjusting matters to the change, and if it should not, or if new attachments be found, neither party can charge the other with unfaithfulness. It often happens that a young man finds his girl is in love while he is only in fun. He regrets that she is taking it so seriously, but lacks the courage to talk with her plainly on the subject, and in the fond hope that she may outgrow it, he allows her to drift on and on until at last he is compelled to abandon her abruptly or marry her. If he is tender hearted and does not want to make her miserable for a time, he marries her—and makes her miserable for all time. If you do not want to marry, or to have an attack of heart disease, keep clear of regular company. Go into society as much as you please, have all the fun you can, but beware of entangling alliances. An innocent flirtation often leads to serious complications, and at the very best it is unprofitable. Don't fool with it.

—New York, New Orleans, Galveston, San Francisco, Seattle, Boston and Philadelphia, are the leading American seaports. What, however, until the waterways to the two gulfs are established. Then the greatest seaport may prove to be in the heart of the continent.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

Happiness is not given exclusively to any one period of life; it may be enjoyed by all. It is to be seen in the repose of the old cat as well as in the gambols of the young kitten; in the arm chair of old age as well as in the sprightliness of the dance or the animation of the chase.—Paley.

What it Means to be a Camp Fire Girl.—Within the past year two groups of Camp Fire Girls have been organized in Litzitz and are actively engaged in some of the numerous activities of the organization. Most people have a very hazy conception of what it means to be a Camp Fire Girl. For the information of those who desire to be better informed the following sketch of the program and aims of the organization is published.

The Camp Fire program is deeply religious in spirit and ideals; it has been tried out for ten years, and the ever increasing number of leaders who find it a most helpful and workable program for girls, as well as the fact that it has been endorsed by leading educators and ministers all over the country, are proofs that here is a program for the adolescent girl which is attractive, educative, workable and lasting in effect. Of the 150,000 Camp Fire Girls thirty per cent. are already organized in churches.

Camp Fire assists materially in developing the religious life of the girl, which needs the constant guidance and direction of the church, by emphasizing sincerity, personal purity, and service for others.

Camp Fire glorifies the every day tasks in the home by creating a love for doing any task well.

Camp Fire encourages girls by award of an honor, to learn how to cook, to order and plan meals, to take care of little children, to wash, iron, and mend—in fact to be real home women.

Camp Fire teaches girls to love the out of doors, to enjoy the wholesome pleasures of hiking, picnicking, outdoor cooking, camping, etc., instead of the frivolous pastimes of the town and city.

Camp Fire teaches girls to be healthy by awarding honors for doing the things which health requires of us all. Camp Fire girls sleep with open windows, they drink water night and morning, take setting-up exercises, etc.

Camp Fire teaches thrift; it encourages saving, economy and simplicity in dress.

Camp Fire teaches honesty, sincerity and loyalty. Its slogan, *Wholesome, made up of the words, work, health and love, make for character-building and nobility.*

Camp Fire makes girls resourceful by teaching them crafts, games, and by training them for leadership.

Camp Fire teaches girls to work together, forgetful of personal advantage because of their interest in the group as a whole.

Camp Fire improves motherhood by making girls healthy, happy, beautiful girls, who have high ideals and who know how to do things women should know.

Most good housewives pride themselves on the brightness of their homes. Mirrors and windows, brass taps and the leaves of aspidistras—all are polished till they shine again, and very attractive is the general result.

But are even the best of us as germ-clean in our homes as we might be? Look round the kitchen. Some one has used a dish mop, and having finished her work, has squeezed the mop into a hard ball and so left it. A dish mop, though a pleasanter thing to use than the old-fashioned dish cloth, needs a lot of attention if it is to be kept sweet and fresh. It should always be rinsed with soda water after the dishes have been washed and should then be shaken out, that the air may reach all the strands. If it can be hung in the open frequently, so much the better.

Then there is the top ledge of the kitchen dresser, which is often a foot from the ceiling, and unused. There is probably a thick layer of dust up there, full of dangerous germs, though the kitchen range may shine like the morning sun.

Take the store cupboard next. Are all the stores—sago, currants, tapioca and so forth—carefully guarded from dust? These things should be kept in unused glass jam-jars, over which a paper cover can be tied.

What about the brooms and carpet-sweepers? The carpet-sweeper box should be emptied every time it is used, and after sweeping with a broom the bits of fluff should be removed from the broom bristles. Brooms should be frequently washed, a good disinfectant used in the water; but in many houses they are worn to a stump without ever being washed at all. Floor-cloths should always be rinsed in a bucket of clean water after use, and shaken out.

Many people who are very precise about dish washing dry their dishes on a not too clean cloth. Drying cloths, if used, should be washed at least once a day. It is better, however, to rinse all china in cold water and leave it to drain, polishing it on a spotlessly clean tea-cloth just before it goes to the table. The shining rows of plates and cups which the housewife loves to see on her open dresser are happy resting-places for flies, so use dresser curtains.

Bread and milk, butter and dishes of jam should never be left uncovered. If a bread-pan is considered too expensive, a large biscuit tin will hold the bread supply for a small family.

Many people are content to cover up a dish of meat with an oval frame. It often happens that these frames are not level and leave half an inch of space open at some corner. As we do not use them at all. Whatever else is left out in the furnishing of a home, a good meat safe should be included.

How many people who polish the glass of pictures regularly only think of the backs at spring cleaning time? Yet the customary method of hanging pictures is to tilt them so that the backs form veritable dust-traps. It's an easy matter to pass a duster over the backs of the pictures when turning out a room, even though the pictures may not be unhung.

WHAT WE GET FROM THE COCOANUT

Imports of copra, the dried "meat" of the coconut, into the United States during the year 1921, are estimated at about 84,000 long tons, six thousand tons to the ton.

Pacific archipelagos produce 10 per cent. of the world's coconut crop, the Dutch East Indies 16 per cent., the Philippine Islands 15 per cent., Ceylon and continental Asia 55 per cent., Africa 2 per cent. and tropical America 2 per cent.

The coconut crop fills a big place in the world's food supply. It contributes a highly valued material for candy-making, cake making and other uses familiar to the house-wife as well as the confectioner. Immense quantities of copra are pressed for oil, much of which is now utilized in the manufacture of artificial lard.

Over \$2,000,000,000 is invested in the industry, more than half that amount being represented by land and groves. Nevertheless, it is in a very backward state, the producing trees, for the most part, receiving little care or cultivation, so that they are stunted by undergrowth. Under such conditions the average tree does not yield more than twenty-five nuts a year, whereas on well-managed plantations the output is four times that many, and therefore comes nearer to being profitable.

More than half of the Pacific copra is of low grade, rancid and so pervaded with flavors due to putrefaction and mold that expensive "renovating" can hardly render it available for human consumption. The oil content is only 75 per cent. of what it should be, owing to the picking of the nuts before they are ripe and to incomplete drying.

During the last five years many crushing mills have been established in the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies, Australia and French Oceania. Crushing where the nuts are grown saves freight and prevents much spoilage in storage and shipment; also the fresh copra yields a better quality of oil. But there is much difficulty about containers for the oil. Wooden barrels do not serve the purpose well. Steel drums cost too much. Tank steamers would serve for transportation, but the only ships of that kind available are those which carry kerosene to the Orient, and a kerosene flavor would lower the market value of the coconut oil.

The cake left over after pressing the copra for the oil, called "pooaac," brings a good price in Europe, where great quantities of it are fed to dairy cattle. It seems to stimulate milk secretion in the cow, and is believed to supply fatty elements that enrich the milk.

THE PUPIL IS THE REAL TEACHER," SAYS DR. MARIA MONTESSORI.

Dr. Maria Montessori, who arrived in London from Italy recently, says the Westminster Gazette, and gave her first address to devoted "Montessorians" at the Y. M. C. A. Central buildings, has an international influence that many a statesman would be proud to boast.

It must be quite 30 years since Queen Marguerite of Savoy (the first Queen of Italy and present Queen-Mother) visited the Montessori Houses of Childhood (Case dei Bambini) in Rome, and became so interested that she did not rest until the method of the Dottress was adopted in elementary schools. She even gave a sum of money, as well as sympathy to furnish means and to maintain five mistresses who were thus able to leave their work and devote all their time to the method. Pupils came from all the earth to study the method of teaching, and Queen Marguerite personally greeted them and had a special medal struck for all who studied in Rome.

The first American Montessori Society was founded by Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone. The society's offices were at Washington, and Miss Margaret Wilson (daughter of the then President) became secretary.

M. Andre Tardieu was traveling in California when he came across Montessori schools there and, becoming so interested, sent long cables about them to the French Minister of Education. Since then over 30 French towns have founded Montessori schools, M. Laple, chief inspector of primary schools in France, has written the preface to the French edition of Dr. Montessori's book on the Method.

The schools have, of course, been established all over Great Britain under the organizing genius of C. A. Bang, and they are also scattered about nearly all the countries of Europe, and in China, Japan and Australasia.

Dr. Montessori visits England for the third time for the present International course in London, at which, on Tuesday night, were students from all over the world. A teacher from Holland spoke eloquently of the adoption there of the Method, and of the interest in it being shown by the university professors.

Yet, the main point stressed in her first address by Dr. Montessori was the necessity of humanity in the teacher. "The pupil is the real teacher, and he will teach with sweetness and gentleness, and often it is the teacher who is a bad pupil."

—The "Watchman" gives all the news while it is news.

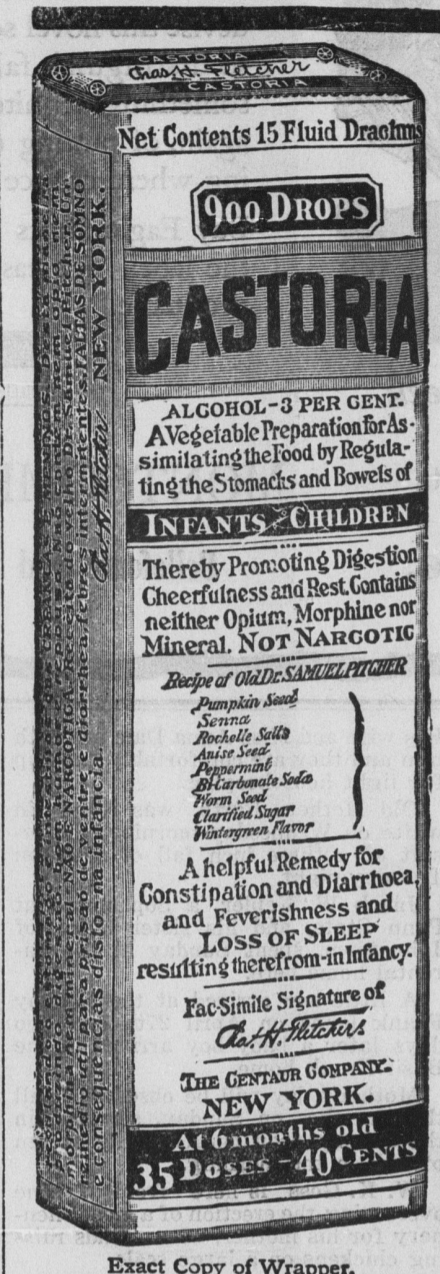
Giant Frogs.

The American Museum of Natural History, in New York, recently obtained several fairly complete skeletons of antediluvian frogs from Texas. Some of them, when alive, were fifteen feet long.

To be strictly accurate, they were not true frogs, but frog-like creatures, which must have been able to leap thirty or forty feet at a bound. In their

day these giant batrachians were exceedingly numerous, judging from the plentiful distribution of their fossilized bones, which, turned up by the plow or otherwise accidentally exhumed, frequently excite the wonder and astonishment of settlers.

—Some men just look mean—in self-protection.



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