Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., February 29, 1924.

Queer Dueling Weapons Used in the Balkans

It doesn't pay to be personal in the Balkans. The duel is still an institution there, and the weapons used in affairs of honor are sometimes rather awe-inspiring. For instance, a duel was fought with sharpened scythes in Jugo-Slavia recently, says London Answers.

Stranger still was an "affair" of some years ago. The combatants quarreled over a game of billiards, and decided to fight a duel with a single billiard ball—the red. A coin was tossed to see who should throw first. The winner hurled the ball with such force that it struck his opponent's temple and killed him.

Another queer duel was settled with the aid of two pills, one poisoned and the other harmless. They were put in a box, shaken up, and picked out by the "duelists."

In 1905 lots were drawn by two men as to which of them should commit suicide. One of the participants was physically incapable of fighting an ordinary duel, so this unique substitute was decided on. The loser, who was engaged, at once wedded his sweetheart, and, after the ceremony, the newly-married couple comitted suicide together.

Simon Lake's Concrete Houses Quickly Built

Utilizing principles that he developed in designing concrete ships, Simon Lake, inventor of submarine boats, has perfected a method of manufacturing houses of any size and any style of architecuture that is specified, from precast concrete slabs of standardized sizes, which he declares can be put up like Aladdin's palace, virtually overnight.

The Lake houses, their inventor writes in the Popular Science Magazine, may be of any type, from a small bungalow to a skyscraper, according to the architect's plans. The exterior finish may be brick, stone, shingles, stucco or whatever else is desired.

The houses are said to be rain-proof, moisture-proof, cold and heat-proof, earthquake-proof, and all but indestructible, and their inventor declares they can be built for one-half the cost of brick or frame construction. Small houses, he says, can be built in a day.

Berlin Is Bicycle City

Berlin is now the leading bicycle city of the world, having displaced Copenhagen as the town with the greatest percentage of cycle users. Every morning and evening the streets leading from the suburbs to the business center of the German capital are filled with hand workers, clerks and business men who have found that bicycles are cheaper and more dependable than the street cars and the elevated and underground railways. The enormous increases in carfare, coupled with drastic cuts in the service, have caused thousands of middle-aged residents of greater Berlin and nearby cities to ransack their garrets or cellars for the discarded cycles of their youthful days, either for their own personal use or for the purpose of selling them to eager buyers of second-hand wheels at from $10 to $20 apiece. Makers of bicycles are reaping a harvest filling the demand for their output at prices ranging from $30 to $40.

Women Workers in U. S.

There are today more than 8,500,000 women gainfully employed in the United States, representing an increase of 474,000 in the last ten years. This is nearly a quarter of the entire female population over ten years of age, while 20 years ago the proportion was nearer a sixth than a fifth. And we get this total increase in spite of the marked decrease in domestic servants, for in 1900, with a much smaller population, we had over 2,095,000 servants, while in 1920 we had but 1,012,000. Women are leaving not only their own homes, but other people's! In factory, store and office young women find companionship and freedom out of working hours which more than compensates them for the better pay and lighter labors of housework, and we may expect this exodus from the older trade to continue, at least until private service has been recognized and its status raised.

A Horrible Dream

Their life had been very happy for a year. Not a cloud had marred their perfect felicity. Then, one morning, the wife came down to breakfast morose and wretched.

She was snappish with her husband. She would hardly speak to him. And for a long while she refused to explain her unwonted conduct.

Finally, though, the young man insisted that he be told why his wife was treating him so badly. She looked up with tears in her eyes and said:

"John Smith, if I dream again that you kissed another woman, I won't speak to you again as long as I live."—Delineator.

Why She Was Going

Philippa—I don't want to go to a girls' school. I'm going to a co-educational college.

Lucy—But the men there are likely to be bold and flirtatious.

Philippa—That's what the girls all tell me.

Changes Will Improve Uniform of the Army

No radical changes have been made in army uniforms by the order General Pershing signed before leaving for Europe, but an entirely new policy in dealing with the uniform of enlisted men is provided for in the amendments to the uniform regulations. Uniforms hereafter will be tailor-made, and commanders will be held responsible for the fit of the uniforms of the enlisted men of their organizations. The color of the cloth will still be olive drab, but a new kind will be substituted for that now in use. The new material is known as melton, has a smooth finish like broadcloth, is highly durable and retains the shape longer than the present cloth. Bronze buttons and devices on the present uniform will be substituted by brass or gold ones, and the officer who desires to make a more flashy appearance can ornament himself with the new trappings, if he desires.

The standing collar, which has been the object of much criticism, is retained, but it is not to exceed two inches in height, depending upon the wearer. It is to be held together with hook and eye. There are specifications for the standing collar which are designed to make it more comfortable. The gorge of the coat is to be cut to fit the base of the neck. The collar is to be of sufficient size at the top to be comfortable and to permit a free movement of the head. When a white collar is worn it should be not to exceed one-fourth displayed and fastened to the collar of the coat.

What Uraeus Circlet Meant in Old Egypt

Statues removed recently from the tomb of Tut-Ankh-Amen all show the ancient uraeus circlet, the snake-headed band that adorned the brows of the royalties of Egypt. Its history reaches back into the dim past of that great people when the god-kings were supposed to have ruled over the land. Both the cobra and the vulture were sacred head-dresses of the rulers of ancient Egypt, but the cobra is more commonly known. It usually was worked in gold and worn either on the bare forehead or over the crown.

The uraeus also was the basilisk of the Greeks, a fabled lizard-like animal of the desert whose breath and bite were fatal. It was supposed to represent the godliness and divinity of the Egyptian Pharaoh and was the symbol of the principle of immortality. The art of old Egypt employed this sign to signify royalty and divinity in paintings, sculptures and statues.

Dance Lessons at Lunch

Business men in London have taken to attending dancing school during lunch hours, says a special dispatch to the New York Tribune, but they are very shy about it, according to a number of dancing teachers who have taken studios in the downtown sections.

"Some demand the utmost secrecy about their lessons," said one dancing mistress, "and one has to fix times that will prevent others from seeing them.

"Men in the commercial world seem the most bashful. They come with the strangest excuses, saying the doctor has ordered them to take more exercise, or that they want to learn dancing in order to please their wives.

"About the only excuse that is not put forth is that they want to enjoy themselves as other people do."

The teachers agree, however, that once a captain of industry overcomes his nervousness he can shake a wicked hoof.

The Important Part

The hero and heroine had "dried up" completely in a love scene.

"The moon is up," whispered the prompter from his corner, but no notice was taken of hum.

"The moon is up," he repeated. Still the lovers looked around despairingly. More audibly came the voice, "The moon is up," and then, in a loud voice audible to the audience, "The—moon—is—up!"

The hero turned savagely to the prompter. "Yes, I know, I know!" he shouted. "But who says it?"

Iceland's Smart Dogs

Icelandic sheep dogs are never allowed in the house in Iceland, the lack of accommodation being acute in that part of the world.

However, they are said to be excellent house dogs, expert watch dogs, devoted to their masters and always anxious to please.

In Iceland men work these dogs over the rivers at a great distance by simply waving their arms. When their masters sit down the Iceland dogs immediately sit down and lean against them when permitted.

Fifty Years on One Job

John Wallace, seventy-one years old, of Providence, R. I., has worked nearly fifty years on one job in one place. It has been as watchman or general handy employee around the now almost desolate plant of the Allen Print works. He has walked, he estimated, 300,000 miles as a part of his job. In that time he has taken only one real vacation and that lasted only one day. He went to Newport, R. I., the summer home of rich society.

Heard on Lower Deck

Pat (on shipboard)—And phat are yez goin' ter do whin yez git to America?

Mike—Take up land.

Pat—Indade, an' 'ow much?

Mike—Oh, a shovelful at a toime.

Butterflies Are Bred in Southern France

What must surely be one of the most fascinating industries in the world is carried on in southern France, where special butterfly farms have been established. Here, under scientific guidance, hundreds of beautiful specimens are bred.

Cross-breeding has been tried, and numerous experiments are conducted to obtain brilliant and original markings on the wings of these insects, which are afterwards sold to collectors or for the adornment of women's hats and dresses.

The farms are provided with special leafy trees and plants on which the eggs are hatched. Directly the young appear the branches are cut off and taken to a specially ventilated room, where they are placed in vases of water.

As soon as the tiny caterpillars have eaten up this first supply of leaves fresh branches are provided. Having been in an even temperature for about two weeks the young caterpillars are taken out into the open, where they are placed on plants that are protected from birds by long nets.

When they have become fully grown this protective net is removed, and soon they retire into cocoons or roll themselves up into leaves. These are collected and stored in specially ventilated boxes, where, in a very short time, buttterflies of wonderful hues are evolved.

Tantrum Headache May Easily Become a Habit

There is an explanation that applies to many individuals, men, women and children, who complain of mysterious aches or pains, says Fred C. Kelly in McNaught's Monthly.

If a woman finds that by referring to a sick headache she can excite sympathy, even momentarily, she is almost certain to try the experiment again. She has not only the satisfaction of obtaining sympathy, but also of giving people to understand that she is an unusual person who has headaches at unexpected times and places when an ordinary individual would not.

It is by no means uncommon to find a woman who flies into a tantrum and goes to bed with a sick headache whenever anything happens that doesn't suit her. Such headaches begun as an experiment sometimes become a habit. Most of us are willing to suffer a little to attract attention.

Power Line of 400 Miles

There is in operation in southern California an electrical power line approximately 400 miles long. It has its source high up in the mountains near the town of Bishop, and extends to El Centro, in the Imperial valley. The line is capable of carrying 10,000 horse-power of energy, and a year was required to built it. For a long time engineers thought that 200 miles was the maximum distance that electricity could be conveyed over a power line, and therefore the completion of this 400-mile line and its success have elicited considerable interest. The power is employed to supply several small towns and many ranches in this fertile valley, but the largest part of it is utilized for pumping water on the desert. It is distributed from four substations—Banning, Coachella, Calipatria and El Centro. The valley possesses local power plants, but the rapid development of the country necessitated an increase of the supply from some big plant outside.

"Low Down" on the Lion

Lord Dewar, an enthusiastic big game hunter, delights to tell the story of a Manchester business man who paid a visit to a planter friend in Uganda who was a keen sportsman. Not without considerable misgiving, the visitor allowed himself to be prevailed upon to go lion hunting. His first night in the jungle was a sleepless one.

Next morning the two friends started out early and had gone but a short distance when they came upon fresh tracks which the enthusiastic sportsman identified as being those of a full-grown lion. "Tell you what we had better do," said the Manchester man, brightly. "You go ahead and see where he went and I'll go back and see where he came from!"—Argonaut.

Rabbit Minus Ears Hears

A rabbit without ears has been born in the animal house of the state department of health laboratories at the University of Pennsylvania.

The new arrival seems normal in every other respect. John Whalen, keeper of the house, has tested him and found that he can hear. Both of the rabbit's parents have excellent pairs of ears and veterinarians who have examined the youngster are unable to explain the freak.

The head of the baby resembles a potato. On the left side of its forehead there is a tiny budlike bit of flesh, which it is believed may develop eventually into an ear. There is no indication of an ear on the other side. —New York World.

Oldest Christian Church

L. O. Murray, formerly comptroller of the currency in the United States Treasury department, who, during and since the war has been in almost every land where relief was needed, has recently returned from work in Palestine and Greece for the Red Cross and Knights of Columbus, and he says that the Church of the Nativity, the oldest Christian church in the world, is still in a fine state of preservation. It is the chief center of interest in all Bethlehem.

Traffic Law Really Is Aid to Motor Driver

The traffic law deals with two classes of drivers. There is the man who is bent only on beating the game, who will violate all the laws with a light heart if he thinks he can get away with it, or if the penalty seems less than the immediate profit. The law must deal with the problem of catching, restraining and penalizing this irresponsible driver; and in dealing with him, harshness should be the keynote.

On the other hand, by far the larger proportion of motorists come in contact with the law only in what should be its beneficent aspects. To them, the law need be only a set of agreed upon principles for insuring that all of us drive to the least interference with any of us. It specifies certain equipment which we must carry, not with the view of forcing us to carry it, but in order that we may have a convenient and authoritative standard of reference. It prescribes the manner of our driving, in general and in particular circumstances, not with the idea that we need to have a club held over us, but again so that each of us may have a standard by which to forecast the probable conduct of the other fellow.

In defining and enforcing these and other necessary standards, the law can afford to err on the side of lenience. It can often correct without penalizing, it can even more often impose a light penalty as a mere jog to the offender's memory, it can and should reserve the display of its teeth for the habitual or the wanton violator.—Scientific American.

Daylight Saving Is Not Popular in Italy

Daylight saving is unpopular in Italy because of the name the government ascribed to it. At least that is former Premier Nitti's laughing explanation. The new time was called the "legal hour."

With the advent of spring, says Mr. Kenneth L. Roberts in Europe's Morning After, the Italian government ordered that all clocks be set back an hour so that the people might have the advantage of an extra hour of daylight. But in Italy, as in other countries, a large number of people didn't like the arrangement, and so they made a frightful uproar and organized strikes against the "legal hour." The street railway employees, for example, were striking; I asked one of them his reasons.

"The new hour," said he, "makes it necessary for us to get up too early in the morning. Everything is foggy and dark."

I reminded him that the new hour saved coal for the nation and gave him an extra hour of daylight when his work was done.

"Yes," he said, "but it is too foggy and dark when we get up."

"Our mistake," declared Nitti, "was in calling it 'the legal hour.' We should have known that no true Italian would have endured it. We should have called it 'the illegal hour.' Then every Italian would have been unanimously in favor of it!"

Materials in Straw Hats

In the United States straw hats are made from braid that is chiefly imported from Italy, China and Japan, says the Detroit News. Of the various materials which go into the fabrication of plaited hatgear the most important is wheaten straw. The straw must have a length of "pipe" between the knots and must possess a clear, delicate golden color and must not be brittle. The most valuable straw is from Tuscany, and from the Tuscan plaits the leghorn hats are made. Many substances besides straw are used in braids for hats and bonnets. Among these may be noticed willow and cane, as well as palm.

The famous panama hats are made from the leaves of the screw pine.

Nearly Killed by Bats

Attacked by what he declares was a swarm of a thousand bats, Joseph Morasky, Southern Pacific station agent at Imlay, relates a weird story of a recent trip he made through a cave in a mountain six miles east of Imlay. Morasky says he lowered himself into the mouth of the cave, and after proceeding through a natural tunnel and down an incline for about 200 feet came into a large chamber. This chamber was the home of the bats, and he says they began an infuriated attack upon him, and declares that he owes his life to the fact that he wore a very heavy cap, coat and gloves. His clothes were badly torn when he finally emerged from the cave.—Reno News in Sacramento Bee.

Value of Egyptian Irrigation.

Irrigation work, including the Assuan dam in Egypt, has cost to date about $53,000,000, but the increase in the value of land in middle and lower Egypt and in the Fayum province has been from $955,000,000 to $2,440,000,000 and the total rent from this area of land has risen from $82,000,000 to $190,000,000. This is what the irrigation engineer has done for Egypt in two decades.

Dynamiting the Mosquito

Man has begun to use high explosives in his war against insects. Dynamite, which we usually think of in connection with the destruction of big things, is now being employed against little mosquitoes. It is used to blast these dangerous disease-carrying pests out of existence by digging ditches which drain the mosquito grounds.