



MISDIRECTED LETTERS.

Most of Them Pass Through the Hands of the "Blind Reader" of the Dead Letter Office.

Among the hundreds of women in the government office in Washington some stand preeminent in their line of work.

Mrs. Patti Lyle Collins, the expert at the dead letter office, is perhaps the best all-around woman in office.

In the first place nature gave her a brave equipment, add to this a liberal education, great linguistic ability, wide knowledge and years of experience, and you have before you the little southern woman who is called the "blind reader" of the dead letter office.

This is because there is nothing written so blindly, but she is able to decipher it.

The mail matter which finds its way to the dead letter office is of several kinds, but the only kind that comes



MRS. PATTI LYLE COLLINS. (Expert at the Dead Letter Office at Washington, D. C.)

Into Mrs. Collins' hands is that which comes under the general head of "mis-directed."

This means letters which are wrongly addressed or those which bear an illegible direction.

It is curious to note that there were received during last year 29,098 letters which bore no address whatever. The general appearance of these envelopes, as well as the nature of the contents, indicates that by far the greater portion of these errors of omission were not made by casual and infrequent users of the mails, but were the result of haste and want of deliberation by persons more or less completely absorbed in business.

Money orders, checks and bank notes are frequently mailed without the sender's name and address within, and in an envelope with no address whatever. After making every effort to discover the owners of these, the United States treasury finds itself the richer annually by \$50,000 from this source.

Letters bearing imperfect directions come directly to Mrs. Collins, who has become so expert in her work that there is seldom anything too "blind" for her to read. When it is remembered how many foreigners who are totally unaccustomed to the language write in it, and how many illiterate who are able to do little more than to make their mark, use the mails, one is not surprised at the great number of letters which come into this department.

But these are not the worst people Mrs. Collins has to deal with. The writer of the ultra fashionable hand gives her, as a rule, more trouble than the illiterate or the foreigner.—St. Louis Republic.

Lesson in Political Economy.

Those good folks who are so prone to grumble and creak over women's extravagance in dress and the deplorable waste of money spent on costly materials and beautiful costumes will, it is to be hoped, see matters in a slightly different light through the medium of Miss Hamilton's will. This lady was a well-known dressmaker of England, and dealt with the kind of materials and dresses which these foolish persons call extravagance. Yet at her death the other day five hospitals benefited to the extent of \$200,000. It is a little curious to think that this munificent bequest was made out of the proceeds of women's so-called extravagance in dress, and as a practical lesson in political economy it certainly deserves attention.

Why the Bed Was Rough.

Archbishop Temple, of England, on one occasion stayed all night at the residence of a clergyman whose wife was absent. On leaving, the host politely expressed the hope that when next his lordship honored the house Mrs. Temple would accompany him. "No, thanks," said the archbishop, shortly. "Mrs. Temple doesn't like to rough it." The clergyman's feelings were deeply hurt and he complained to his wife on her return. "Surely, you didn't put the bishop in the pink bedroom?" she cried. The clergyman admitted that he did. "Oh, then, that's it! I put all the silver in the bed. No wonder he called it rough!"

To Steam the Face.

Place a large wash bowl filled with boiling water on a low stand, put a large towel over the head so that none of the steam may escape. Steam the face and neck thus for 15 minutes, and with the fingers pinch and press every part until it is as red as a lobster. Bathe the face in very hot water and remain in a warm room for at least an hour. It is a good thing to take a nap.

On rising bathe the face gently with cold water to prevent taking cold when you go out.

SAVED FROM SUTTEE.

How a Hindoo Woman, Now in America, Escaped from a Horrible Heathen Sacrifice.

Mrs. Ramee Lalros, a woman between 50 and 55, arrived in Chicago recently from India, via Yokohama and San Francisco, with her husband. Mrs. Lalros' husband is a Eurasian from Lahore, and a Christian, but the woman is a staunch Hindoo who refuses to be converted, and has brought with her from her native Benares a copper statuette of the goddess Shiva, which she worships at leisure, while her husband may be attending services in the nearest Episcopal church. They tolerate each other and live happily together with their three beautiful daughters, two of whom are of their father's creed, while the third, the youngest, is a devout worshiper of Shiva and Ganesha.

Mrs. Lalros has a history that is most interesting, for she was about to become a victim to the terrible suttie of her caste when rescued by the man who afterward became her husband. As is the custom in India, Ramee Khud, while still a toddling child, was affianced to the son of a friend and neighbor. At the age of 11, just on the eve of the children's marriage, the youth of 13 who was to be the bridegroom died, and, according to the irrevocable laws of her caste, she was doomed to be burned on the funeral pyre on the banks of the sacred river Jumna, over from the city of Benares. As Lalros had much to do with what followed, it is just as well as he should tell the story:

"It was a little before the Sepoy mutiny of 1857, and I, the son of a European father, was guiding a detachment of the First Bengal cavalry through the jungles to Benares. While concealed in the bush waiting for sunrise we saw the dead youth carried down to the water's edge on a bamboo stretcher, and, judging from the sort of crowd that had assembled, we were about to witness a suttie. The body was covered over with a green silk robe—for he was a high-class Brahmin—and placed on a pile of resinous sandal-wood logs. Then the cloth was removed, the bier placed on the pyre, with the feet toward the Jumna, six logs were laid on the body, and all was ready for the widow.

"Led by a relative, Ramee walked slowly down the bank to play her tragic part in the ceremony, covered with a flowing robe of white. A Brahmin priest stood at the head of the body—the scene is before me now as if it were but yesterday—and he directed the proceedings in the coolest manner possible. Talking the rod presented her by the Brahmin in her right hand Ramee walked three times round



SETTING FIRE TO THE PILE.

the bier and waved it over her head. The Brahmin next handed her a torch, which, though to all appearance not lighted, contained a spark of fire within. Very soon the waving of the torch caught a current and ignited. I could not see the girl's face all this time, but I could see that her form shook like an aspen leaf.

"The Brahmin now, amid profound silence, having ordered her to apply the torch, Ramee advanced toward the pile with tottering steps, and in a moment the pile was ablaze. Now came Ramee's time to sacrifice herself, to perish then and there in the fierce flames that were already stretching out their tongues toward her flimsy robe.

"She hesitated, she trembled, and by command of the priest two men were about to throw her on the blazing pyre, when the officer commanding the detachment, a young man with a soft heart, ordered his men to charge. They obeyed the order with alacrity, and not a moment too soon, dispersing the suttie party, which fled to its boats, leaving Ramee fainting on the river banks. In taking this step the officer really disobeyed orders. Fortunately we found what we had come for. We saw that the rebels were fortifying Benares. As for Ramee, the colonel's wife took her under her protection, and after the mutiny was suppressed, she became my wife."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Good Taste in Dressing.

Wear as few bands as possible at or near the waist, and in all cases wear them as far below the waist line as possible with comfort. Make drawers with as little fullness at the top as possible, and always make them on a carefully fitted yoke, says Woman's World. If you wear a chemise or corset cover have it fit smoothly, and use no sort of frilly trimmings that will show their imprint through a closely fitted bodice. Make them as elaborate as you please, but let all trimmings be flat, using lace rather than embroidery. If you wear a short under-petticoat of flannel or other material, make with a fitted yoke that drops well over the hips and abdomen, keeping all fullness—both at top and bottom—at the back. The top petticoat should be fitted with the same precision as the skirt to your very best gown, and should always be worn well below the waist in front and on the hips.

KIDNEY DISEASE

Caused by Internal Catarrh, Promptly Cured by Pe-ru-na.

Hon. J. H. Caldwell, a prominent member of the Louisiana State Legislature, says the following in regard to Pe-ru-na for catarrh:



Hon. J. H. Caldwell.

"I have used Pe-ru-na for a number of years with the very best results for catarrhal diseases. I shall never be without it. I never fail to recommend it when an opportunity presents itself."

—J. H. Caldwell, Robeline, La. Gilbert Hofer, Grays, Ky., says in a letter dated March 7th, 1894: "I have used four bottles of Pe-ru-na and I am well of my catarrh, and it cured my Bright's disease. I had been troubled for two years. I weigh twenty pounds more than I did before I was taken sick. I shall never be without Pe-ru-na." Send for free catarrh book. Address Dr. Hartman, Columbus, O.

Matrimonial Cold Water.

She—Do you remember how you said before we were married that you were afraid you never could be worthy of me?

He—Yes. "And you still think so?" "Oh, I'm kept so busy earning a living for the family now that I don't have time to think of it one way or the other."

She had intended to lead up gradually to the subject of Easter hats, but decided at the last moment to wait until some more favorable opportunity.—Chicago Evening News.

Cheap Excursions, 1899.

Annual Meeting General Assembly Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Denver, Col., May 18 to 26. Annual Meeting General Assembly Presbyterian Church at Minneapolis, Minn., May 15 to June 1. National Baptist Anniversaries at San Francisco, Cal., May 26 to 30. National Educational Association at Los Angeles, Cal., July 1 to 14. For all these meetings cheap excursion rates have been made and delegates and others interested should bear in mind that the best route to each convention city is via the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul R'y and its connections. Choice of routes is offered those going to the meetings on the Pacific Coast of going via Omaha or Kansas City and returning by St. Paul and Minneapolis. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul R'y has the short line between Chicago and Omaha, and the best line between Chicago, St. Paul and Minneapolis, the route of the Pioneer Limited, the only perfect train in the world. All coupon ticket agents sell tickets via the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul R'y. For time tables and information as to rates and routes address Geo. H. Heatford, General Passenger Agent, Chicago, Ill.

The century plant is a case of age before beauty.—Golden Days.

Lane's Family Medicine.

Moves the bowels each day. In order to be healthy this is necessary. Acts gently on the liver and kidneys. Cures sick headache. Price 25c and 50c.

It is safe to suspect a man who talks too much about his fairness.—Aitchison Globe.

Often it is easier to listen to a story we have heard than to take the risk of being said a longer one.—Washington (D.C.) Democrat.

Many Like Him.—"What kind of a tenant is he?" asked the prospective landlord. "Well," replied the landlord who knew him of old, "if the house is a new one, he will be all right for the first year, but the next he will want it entirely rebuilt."—Chicago Evening Post.

Jack—"I hear you saved the life of a woman who lived in the building that burned yesterday at midnight." Mack—"Yes; I kept her out till two a. m."—Town Topics.

"There goes a man who pays taxes on every dollar's worth of property that he owns, and he never complains about it, either." "Excuse me for a few minutes, please." "Where are you going in such a hurry?" "I have a gold brick that I want to dispose of, and if you have spoken truly concerning that fellow across the street I think I may have found a purchaser."—Chicago Daily News.

Weak Advice.—"Aim high," cried the clerical visitor, as he endeavored to rouse the moral ambition of the bright-faced Sunday school lad and lassies before him. "Aim high!" "Not much," interrupted a small boy on the front bench; "that's what the Spaniards did, and see what happened to them!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

So Different.—An old Scotchwoman was walking to church with her family. The Auld Kirk minister rode past at a tremendous rate, and the old lady said to her children: "Siccan a way to be ridin', and this the Sabbath day. Aweel, awaeel, a gude man is merciful to his beast!" Shortly afterwards her own minister rode past just as furiously, and the worthy old wife cried: "Ah, there he goes! The Lord bless him, pur man! His heart's in his work, an' he's teger to be at it."—People's Friend.

ARE GREATLY PLEASED WITH WESTERN CANADA.

W. R. Milburn, John Holmes, M. R. Dagger, E. L. Stetson, of Buena Vista County, Iowa, report as follows of the Canadian North-West as to its suitability for farming, and the advantages it offers to the agricultural immigrant from the United States: "We came here solely to look up improved farms and, if suitable, to select such as pleased us best. We have not visited the homestead districts at all, though we believe them to be very inviting. Our inquiries have been confined solely to the district around Hartney, Deloraine and towards the Souris River in Manitoba. Our impressions of all that region are in every way satisfactory, and we have decided to go back to Iowa at once, and, having disposed of our several interests there, to return to Manitoba in the month of March next, and, effecting our purchase of improved farms, which we find we can do at reasonable rates, immediately begin farming. We are greatly pleased with all that we have seen in that part of Western Canada. The soil we find to be more than equal to that of our own country for wheat-growing, and the other conditions of climate, schools, markets, etc., are all that we could wish for.

"To show what an energetic man can do we may mention that we found one such at Hartney who had rented a farm on shares, receiving two-thirds of the returns as his share of the crop. When he came to sell his own produce he found that his two-thirds, when converted into cash, was enough to buy the farm he rented out and out, which he accordingly did, and is now its owner. It is our intention to induce as many of our friends as possible, who are practical farmers, to remove from Iowa to this country, where we believe there is a better future for the industrious man than is now to be found anywhere on this continent. We are well known in our part of the State of Iowa, and we invite correspondence from its residents in all parts with regard to this region of Western Canada which we have visited, and to which we intend to return."

AN ORDINARY OLD COIN.

But It Served to Bring Out the Failings of Weak Humanity.

"Say!" said the street car conductor to a mild-mannered man who was deeply engrossed in his newspaper. "Say, young fellow, I don't want this quarter. I can't use it." The mild-mannered man continued to hold out his hand for his change, but paid no other attention to the conductor.

"See here!" yelled the conductor, getting red in the face, "you can't pass no quarter like that on me. It's s'p'ck. I can't take it for more than 20 cents." The mild man looked up and said: "I'm sorry, because you gave me that very quarter yourself last night, and I've been laying for you since. Well, give it here." He took the quarter and gave the conductor a nickel. As he took the quarter from the conductor he suddenly dropped his newspaper and gave a chuckle.

"Well, well!" he exclaimed; "here's luck. Bless me if that isn't an 1832 quarter with the stars and an arrow. It's worth \$3.82." He slipped it into his pocket with evidence of much satisfaction. A hungry-eyed man in the corner, who had overheard the conversation, jumped up and said to the conductor: "Isn't that the very quarter I gave you yesterday morning? I missed that quarter. It was a pocket-piece and a valuable coin. I remember now that I gave it to you. I demand it!" he said, looking fiercely at the mild man. "If you are a gentleman you will give it to me."

"My wife gave me the coin by mistake; it's part of a collection that's been in the family since 1827!" yelled the conductor. "I tell you it's mine," said the hungry-eyed man. Thus they wrangled and quarreled all the way downtown. "No," said the mild man to a neighbor, as he stepped from the car. "It's only a plain, ordinary old shiny quarter that I've been trying to pass off for a week. We were all lying. It's worth about 22 cents."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Two Valued Opinions.

A prominent western railway man, in speaking of the passenger service of the New York Central, says: "It begins right, ends right, and is right in the middle." An officer of one of the transpacific steamship lines says: "There is no train service in the world comparable with that of the New York Central's Lake Shore Limited."

The best is the cheapest, and the best is always best. New York Central stands at the head of the passenger lines of this country and has fairly earned the title of "America's Greatest Railroad."—Buffalo Commercial, February 14, 1899.

Knock—"Miss Blythe has gone over to the vast majority." Wheeler—"You don't mean to say she has bought a wheel?"—Town Topics.

Ask Your Dealer for Allen's Foot-Ease. A powder to shake into your shoes. It rests the feet. Cures Corns, Bunions, Swollen, Sore, Hot, Callous, Aching, Sweating feet and Ingrowing Nails. Allen's Foot-Ease makes new or tight shoes easy. Sold by all druggists and shoe stores, 25c. Sample mailed FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

Proof of It.

"So you think there really is something in heredity, after all?" "I do. Young Mundsley, who is trying to get up a north pole expedition, is the son of a woman who used to be an inveterate house hunter, not because she could have used a house if she had found one, but for the mere love of the thing."—Chicago Evening News.

Coughing Leads to Consumption. Kemp's Balsam will stop the Cough at once. Go to your druggist to-day and get a sample bottle free. Large bottles 25c and 50c. Go at once; delays are dangerous.

Father—"Tommy, stop pulling that cat's tail." Tommy—"I'm only holding the tail; the cat's pulling it."—London Tit-Bits.

I can recommend Piso's Cure for Consumption to sufferers from Asthma.—E. D. Townsend, Ft. Howard, Wis., May 4, '94. The newly-organized coffin trust is doomed to failure. The members will be sure to run things into the ground.—Town Topics.

THOUSANDS HAVE KIDNEY TROUBLE AND DON'T KNOW IT



Swamp-Root, The Great Kidney Restorative and Healer.

ITS MARVELOUS SUCCESS IN ALL KIDNEY, BLADDER AND URIC ACID TROUBLES,

To Prove for Yourself the Wonderful Merits of This Great Discovery, You may Have a Sample Bottle Sent Absolutely Free By Mail.

What your kidneys need is a gentle, healing, tonic influence, that will soothe their irritability and gently regulate them.

The only thing that will do this is Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the ideal Kidney Restorative.

It used to be considered that only urinary troubles were to be traced to the kidneys, but now modern science proves that nearly all constitutional diseases have their beginning in the disorder of these useful organs.

What more natural? The Kidneys filter and purify the blood.

When they don't your whole body must suffer.

If you are sick, doctor your kidneys, because as soon as they are well they will help all the other organs to health.

The mild and extraordinary effect of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy, is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases and is sold by druggists in fifty-cent and one-dollar bottles. Make a note of the name, SWAMP-ROOT, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root.

You may have a sample bottle of this famous kidney remedy sent free by mail, postpaid, by which you may test its virtues for such disorders as kidney, bladder and uric acid diseases, and urinary troubles, obliged to pass water frequently night and day, smarting or irritation in passing, brickdust or sediment in the urine, constant headache, backache, lame back, dizziness, sleeplessness, indigestion, nervousness, skin trouble, anemia, Bright's disease, neuralgia, rheumatism, bloating, irrita-

bility, worn-out feeling, lack of ambition, loss of flesh, sallow complexion.

If your water when allowed to remain undisturbed in a glass or bottle for twenty-four hours, forms a sediment or settling or has a cloudy appearance, it is evidence that your kidneys and bladder need immediate attention.

The great discovery, Swamp-Root, has been tested in so many ways, in hospital work, in private practice, among the helpless too poor to purchase relief, and has proved so successful in every case, that a special arrangement has been made by which all the readers of this paper who have not already tried it, may have a sample bottle sent absolutely free by mail. Also a book telling more about Swamp-Root and containing some of the thousands upon thousands of testimonials received from men and women who owe their good health, in fact, their very lives, to the wonderful curative properties of Swamp-Root. Be sure and mention this paper when sending your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

"DON'T BORROW TROUBLE." BUY SAPOLIO "TIS CHEAPER IN THE END."

DEALERS should carry a complete line of Spalding's Trade Mark Athletic Supplies Always a demand for them. Write for our catalogue. A. C. SPALDING & BROS. New York Chicago Denver

FREE HOMES In the Great Grain and Grazing Belts of Western Canada and information as to how to secure them can be had on application to Superintendent of Immigration, Ottawa, Canada, or to M. W. McINNES, No. 1 Merrill Block, Detroit, Mich.

POLAND BREEDERS can secure a sample pair of our Famous O.I.C. Hogs ON TIME, and accuracy of raising they will write at once. 3 weighed 2506 lbs. L. B. SILVER CO. Summit Street, Cleveland, Ohio

PIMPLES "My wife had pimples on her face, but she has been taking CASCARETS and they have all disappeared. I had been troubled with constipation for some time, but after taking the first Cascares I have had no trouble with this ailment. We cannot speak too highly of Cascares." FRED WARTMAN, 578 Germania Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. CANDY CATHARTIC Cascares TRADE MARK REGISTERED REGULATE THE LIVER Pleasant, Palatable, Potent, Taste Good, Do Good, Never Sicken, Weaken, or Grippe. 10c, 25c, 50c. CURE CONSTIPATION. Sterling Remedy Company, Chicago, Montreal, New York, 514

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A. N. K.-C 1758 DROPSY NEW DISCOVERY; gives quick relief and cures worst cases. Book of testimonials and 10 days' treatment free. DR. H. H. GREEN'S SUNS, No. 1, Atlanta, Ga.

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Alabastine, the only durable wall coating, takes the place of sealing kalsomines, wall paper and paint for walls. It can be used on plaster, brick, wood or canvas.

Alabastine can be used over paint or paper; paint or paper can be used over Alabastine. Buy only in five pound packages, properly labeled; take no substitute.

Every church and schoolhouse should be coated only with Alabastine. Hundreds of tons used yearly for this work. Genuine Alabastine does not rub and scale off.

Alabastine packages have full directions. Anyone can brush it on. Ask paint dealer for tint card. "Alabastine Era" free. Alabastine Co., Grand Rapids, Mich.