

MR. BOWSER'S WITCHHAZEL

And Mrs. Bowser's Flying Machine.
By M. QUAD.

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It was a day previous to Mrs. Bowser's birthday. There had come into Mr. Bowser's office, a sharp-featured, keen-looking man, who gave his name as Mr. Gordon. He was a practical chemist, and was connected with a wholesale drug manufacturer. He wanted to go in business for himself or with a partner who had money and energy. He had heard of Mr. Bowser and had called to talk business.

One of the great money-makers for the drug house, was witchhazel. It returned over 100 per cent profit. Mr. Gordon wanted to go into the manufacture of witchhazel. It would make a couple of men millionaires in five years. The world was not half supplied. The liquid was a dollar a pint and still going up. He had a talk with Mr. Bowser for two long hours, and he satisfied him that the opportunity of his life had come to him. It beat bookkeeping and pig-raising all to pieces.

At five o'clock Mr. Bowser started home, as usual. He was placid and satisfied with the world. He looked around him at the stores and offices, and calculated that he could buy them all, in two years. Two or three of his fellow passengers, on the car, stepped on his toes, and the conductor took fifty cents from him and forgot to make the change. Nothing irritated Mr. Bowser, however. He smiled, as he entered the hall of his house, and that smile warned Mrs. Bowser that he had something up his sleeve. She said nothing, however, and after dinner he suddenly began:

"Mrs. Bowser, do you know that tomorrow is your birthday?"

"Yes, I did not forget that," she replied.

"You have been a dear, good wife to me and I am glad that I have prepared a surprise for you. It isn't a necklace of diamonds or pearls, but that will come a little later."

"It was good of you to remember," she murmured.

"I have always remembered and always shall. You have stood by me as a true wife should. Let me ask you, if you know a liquid called witchhazel?"

"I think I do. We have kept it in the house ever since we were married."

"Yes, we have. It is a great thing to know what it sells for at drug stores. It is one dollar a pint, my dear wife, and they make a profit of one hundred per cent. There is an increasing demand for it and it will probably go to a dollar and a half a pint."

"But what does all this talk mean?" asked Mrs. Bowser.

"It means that I am going into the manufacture of witchhazel. I have at-



"I Shall Begin to Gather."

ready arranged with a chemist, and we shall begin the manufacture this fall. That is your birthday present, Mrs. Bowser. In one year from now I shall be financially fit to buy you a diamond necklace worth, at least, twenty-five thousand dollars."

"That will be nice of you, Mr. Bowser. But you must make your witchhazel out of roots and bushes."

"Of course, I know that. That is the easiest part of all. Mrs. Bowser, there is growing, along the roadside, in this state, enough witchhazel bushes to manufacture ten thousand gallons of the liquid. I am going to gather the roots and bushes for my part. Mr. Gordon will attend to the distillation and the putting up of the remedy in bottles. It is to be called, 'Bowser's Witchhazel,' and that alone will sell a hundred thousand bottles every month. I shall begin to gather in the fall and it will be a play spell for me."

"But there is something I wish to tell you, Mr. Bowser," quietly observed Mrs. Bowser. "You hadn't said anything about my birthday, and I thought you might forget it, and so I bought you my present. That is, I have bought a present on the condition that you approve of it."

"Have you bought a new dress?" was asked.

"Oh, no. It is something more valuable than that. Mr. Bowser, I find myself a little lame with rheumatism."

"You should use Bowser's Witchhazel for that."

"Yes, that would be good, but I have

something better. I am going to buy a flying machine."

"A flying machine! What the Old Harry do you want with a flying machine?"

"For practical use. It is quite an effort for me to go downtown shopping. We have no auto or carriage, and the street car is always crowded. How nice it would be if I could have a flying machine waiting at the door for me! I could step right into the machine and start the motor and go sailing right over the houses, and land at the door of a store. If I had any packages to bring with me, don't you see how handy the machine would be?"

"Not by a darned sight!" exploded Mr. Bowser.

"But you must see that, with the witchhazel and my flying machine, we should be nicely fixed. If I fell out of my machine and got bruised all over we would have the remedy right in the house to cure me. Remember, that is my birthday present, Mr. Bowser."

"I don't care a hang if it is—I am opposed to it! What do you know about flying machines?"

"Oh, I can learn to fly, can't I? I can get someone to give me lessons. I know a lady who owns one, and it



"If I Wanted to Call on a Lady"

didn't take her over a week to understand it. If she wants two pounds of butter or a dozen eggs she flies right over to the grocer, and saves a long walk and half an hour's time, and don't you see—"

"And I see that it is a most foolish thing!" interrupted the witchhazel manufacturer.

"I counted up the number of times I had to go up and down stairs," continued Mrs. Bowser. "It was twenty-three times in all, and I had four calls to pay, in addition. Just think, Mr. Bowser, of twenty-three times. If I had a flying machine I could fly up and down stairs and save me all that walking. If I wanted to call on a lady I would land on her front steps and ring the bell. If she was in, I would get out and hitch my flying machine to the doorknob; if she was not at home I would give the motor a poke and away we would go."

"Yes, you would go to Ballyhack! Mrs. Bowser, I won't hear another word about your flying machine. It is the maddest thing that ever a woman thought of!"

"But you have wanted one!" she protested.

"It makes no difference! I am not going to help you to commit suicide."

"But, don't you see, that if I pitch out you can cure me with your witchhazel? We shouldn't ever have to call a doctor."

"Flying machines be banged! Doctors be banged! There will be no foolish things brought into this house! I put my foot right down on that!"

While Mrs. Bowser was heaving a long sigh of pretended disappointment, Mr. Bowser got up and left the house and slammed the door behind him. He went over to the drug store and peered into the window. There were three men in there and he heard one of them say:

"There is old man Bowser looking in. I wonder if he hasn't got a scheme to make the sun shine for twenty-four hours without going to bed at all."

And Mr. Bowser quit peering and walked on. Mrs. Bowser wasn't to have any present on her birthday!

"E Pluribus Unum."

"E Pluribus Unum," the Latin motto on the obverse of the great seal of the United States and on certain of the coins, means "one from many." It was first proposed August 10, 1776, by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, who had been appointed a committee of three to prepare a device for the seal. This device, however, was not accepted, and it was not until June 20, 1782, that the motto was adopted as part of the second and successful design submitted by Charles Thompson, secretary of congress. In 1796 congress decreed that the words should appear on certain specified coins.

Not Distant Enough.

The Escort—Who's that fellow that seems to know you?

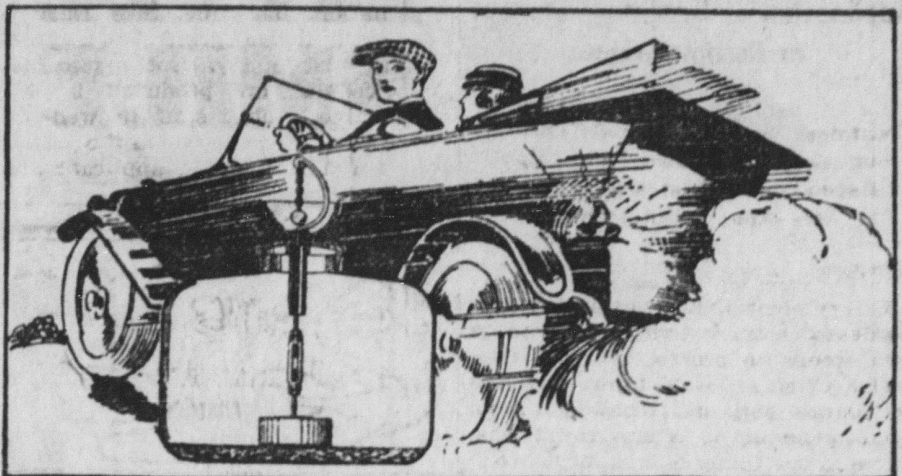
The Lady—Only a second cousin once removed.

The Escort—Um! Well, he looks as if he wanted removing again.—London Punch.

Enormous Spider Harmless.

The "crab spider" of Brazil is nearly two inches long, and its feet, when stretched out, occupy a surface of nearly a foot in diameter. This great spider is perfectly harmless.

DEVICE WARNS DRIVER THAT GAS SUPPLY NEEDS QUICK ATTENTION



One of the most uncomfortable things in the world is suddenly to discover, when one is motoring far from a supply station, that the gasoline tank is empty or nearly so. Every automobile driver meets with an adventure of this sort at one time or another.

There ought surely to be some contrivance that would give timely advance warning to the motorist of such a happening.

A device newly patented by William Grah of Waterville, O., performs this useful duty admirably. It is very simple, consisting of a float that hangs on the end of a vertical rod which passes upward through the cap of the gasoline tank and with its upper end holds suspended a ball of metal.

As the surface level of the fluid in the tank is lowered the float, of course, descends correspondingly. The rod attached to the float descends with the

latter (through a tube) until the metal ball dangling from the upper end of the rod is low enough to hang within a cup formed by an inverted bell which surmounts the tank cap.

The upper end of the rod is bent in a curve, so that the metal ball attached to its extremity by a short chain may dangle directly above the middle of the cup-shaped bell.

The movement of the automobile keeps the metal ball constantly swinging to and fro. But it cannot strike the sides of the bell until the lowering of the float in the tank has caused it to descend to a certain point, which may be determined beforehand by adjustment of the float.

Therefore, when the driver hears the bell ringing it warns him that he has got only just so much gasoline left. And the bell, having started, keeps on ringing and demanding attention to the emergency.

FIX CARBURETOR TO AVOID LEAKS

Difficulties Greater in Cases Where Engines Have Been in Use for Long Time.

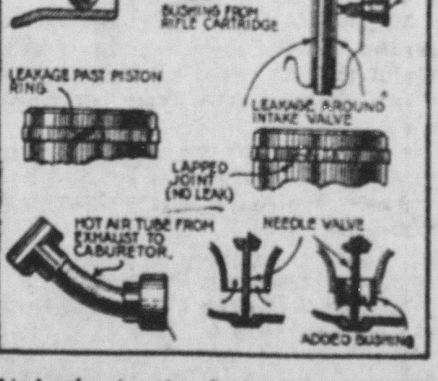
CAUSES FOR UNEVEN ACTION

To Remedy Trouble Opening Should Be Narrowed to Give Stream of Entering Air Greater Velocity in Chamber.

Much has been written about the difficulties of carburetion under normal conditions, when the engines under consideration are in good shape; but the difficulties are even greater in the case of engines that have been used for a long time.

Some of the common complaints are of the so-called "galloping engine's" inability to throttle to a low speed and an unaccountable missing or skipping.

Air-leaks diluting the gasoline vapors are the foremost causes of irregular action. Sceldom does the air leak through a loose gasket, but the hole through which the stem of the throttle



Air-Leaks in the Carburetor and the Intake Valves Make the Engine Miss Fire.

valve protrudes, due to wear, provides an air leak that should be remedied. Take the lever off, bush the hole with the shell of a rifle cartridge or similar piece of tubing to keep the air from penetrating at this point. Now remove the intake valves, discard the exhaust valves and use the intake valves in their place. Purchase new intake valves and if these do not fit the holes snugly, ream the extreme ends of the valve guide and place a copper or brass bushing at each end or entirely through, if desired.

Fit a small grease-cup and use a graphite grease, and the leakage of air at this place will be overcome. Remove the piston-rings and fit new ones with lapped ends that will effectively stop all leaks at this place.

In some carburetors a removable tube is used which can be taken out and bushed or given a heavy coating of solder to close the opening. The object is to narrow the opening and to give to the stream of entering air greater velocity. If the carburetor has no preheater, one should be added.

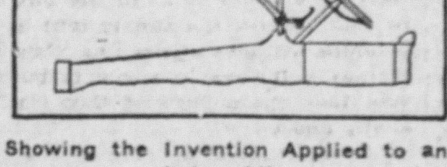
With the carburetor removed, push the butterfly throttle valve to its closed position and note the small opening through which the engine gets its fuel, which will give you some idea of the importance of closing the small openings that give a combined area sufficient to dilute the mixture until it will not burn, which accounts for the skipping of the engine in many cases.—George Luers in Popular Science Monthly.

AUTOMOBILE STORM AWNING

Ample Protection Afforded Driver From Rain, Sleet or Snow—Vision Unobscured.

The Scientific American in illustrating and describing an automobile storm awning, the invention of G. H. Hunt, Monroe Center, Ill., says:

The invention relates to awnings to be used in connection with the top of an automobile to protect the upper part of the wind shield from rain, snow or sleet so that the vision of the driver will not be obscured, and also for shutting out the rays of the sun



Showing the Invention Applied to an Automobile.

or elevated street lights. A more specific object is to provide a waterproof flexible awning which can be operated from within the automobile, there being spring-actuated arms on the sides of the wind shield to forwardly project the awning, and locking means for holding the supporting arms.

AUTO CARE DURING SUMMER

Radiator Should Always Be Kept Filled and at Intervals Flushed Out and Refilled.

During the summer season motorists should give frequent attention to the radiator, advises a motor car manufacturer. It should always be kept filled, and at intervals it should be flushed out and filled with clean water. In connection with efficient operation of the cooling system, fan belt adjustment should be made, for the fan is needed in summer. The position of the spark lever should be watched to see that it is kept in an advanced position, thus assuring better cooling of the motor.

Minor parts, such as spring shackles, wheel bearings, steering connections and universal joints, require oiling more often in summer. It is wise to use a heavier grade of lubricating oil than in colder weather, and oil should be drained from the motor at intervals not to exceed every 1,000 miles.

AUTOMOBILE GOSSIP

Sixty per cent of the production of gasoline is used by motor vehicles.

At one time it was considered unconventional for a woman to drive her own car.

Twelve thousand motor vehicles are operated by rural schools in the United States.

Muffler cutouts are prohibited on any public highway in the state of Pennsylvania.

A motor trip from Paris to Verdun, through the devastated regions and return costs 245 francs.

Street cars have the right of way between cross streets over all privately owned vehicles in Kansas City, Mo.

Since 1890, the first year in which statistics are available, there have been built in the United States 11,839,483 motor vehicles.

FOOD FOR SPIRITS

Young Children Considered Dainties in West Africa.

So When Great Man Dies, the Little Ones, With Slaves, Are Killed and Buried With Him.

Some strange superstitions of West African negroes are described by P. L. Tengely in the London Daily Mail. If he will, the juju man (witch doctor) of West Africa can tell you that when a man dies his spirit, or spirits, will remain behind and wander about the earth while he will "go away." It is not clear what is meant by "he" as distinct from his spirits, or where "he" goes when he does "go away," but obviously it is to a place where, if he be a big chief, he will want servants to serve him, and therefore when he dies slaves are killed, and also young children. But these latter are killed for another purpose, as the following remarks will show.

These wandering spirits are of two kinds—good, or at least harmless, called "Duppies," and evil ones, known as "Jumbis."

"Duppies," the juju man will tell you, can be seen in various forms. There used to be a resthouse on a beach in southern Nigeria which fell into disuse because, as many white men used to know, queer black forms, sometimes like monkeys, used to run about the veranda and the rooms at night making weird noises. They did no harm, being, as every native knew, only "duppies."

The "jumbi," however, is a terrible thing—so awful that whoever sees one goes mad.

His home is in the silk-cotton, or ceiba tree, and he kills the person who cuts one down. Blacks of educated West Indian descent will never cut down a silk-cotton tree.

"Jumbis" eat dead bodies, preferring those of children, though there is nothing they like better than rice.

Hence when a man or woman dies a quantity of rice is placed near the grave under a cover resembling a candle extinguisher, only with holes in the sides. The object of the holes is to enable the thin, hungry "jumbi" to enter the receptacle, where he gorges himself until he is too fat to get out again.

A fresh supply of rice is daily placed under the dome to make up for what the "jumbis" have eaten. (There are lots of rats and ground pigs in West Africa.) The process is kept up until the ninth day, when a "wake" is held, and the "jumbis" are driven away by noise and fee-ack (native magic).

That is one way of keeping the "jumbis" from the dead. But if a great man dies he has another chance of being undisturbed; for then young children are killed, and the "jumbi" eats them rather than the old person.

Many years ago, when King Take died, the then governor, in the hope of preventing any secret slaughter, ordered that he should have a grand funeral, "white man fashion."

It was a great day for the natives, several white officials attending the burial in the center of the royal compound, where, by order, they remained until the grave was filled up.

But despite these precautions, at dead of night the juju priests had their linings. Take was dug up and reburied in native fashion together with his slaves and several children.

"Why Southpaws."

The word "southpaw," used frequently in the course of references to baseball games, is a bit of slang which has crept into the language during the last few years—a colloquialism which has behind it rather more of a logical pedigree than most slang words can claim.

That the batter may not have to face the rays of the setting sun at any time of the year, a baseball diamond is usually laid out so that the batter's box faces due east. The pitcher, therefore, faces westward, while his right hand is toward the north and his left hand is toward the south. As the majority of pitchers are right-handed, it was only natural that an exception to this rule should be singled out for a certain specific title—and the name "southpaw" was adopted on account of the usual points of the compass in connection with the diamond itself.

The eccentricities of Rube Waddell and other "southpaws" have made the name synonymous with "erratic" so far as baseball language is concerned, though there is no medical support for the theory that left-handed persons are more peculiar than those who use their right hands.

Aerial Time Tables.

So important has become commercial aviation in France that there is being published a monthly time table of all the air services operating in France and allied countries. This time table, known as L'Indicateur Aerien, gives such information as the time of departure and arrival, routes, type of plane employed, weight of luggage allowed, rates, and so on. The little publication appears on the first of every month.—Scientific American.

Call for Much Shelf Room.

Five miles of shelving will be erected in a new building being constructed by the French government, for the filing of more than 100,000 volumes and almost as many pamphlets, etc., which they have collected. The collection of manuscripts, photographs and war records is appalling as to numbers, and there seems to be no limit to the gifts of collectors.

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