

Evening Ledger

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PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1916
In a just cause the weak overcome the strong.—Sophocles.

Delaware County is unduly alarmed. Philadelphia is not likely to gobble it all up at a single mouthful.

Bonar Law wants to crush Prussia. His task would be easier if he could persuade Prussia to stop resisting.

The greatest American was first in war as well as first in peace. Mr. Bryan thinks he will be twice as great if he is great in only half as much.

Grand Duke Nicholas must have been trained by an efficiency expert. He apparently believes in the follow-up policy as essential to military as well as to business success.

The "international spy" with the incredible name of Ignatius Timothy Trebitsch Lincoln has been arrested again. It is probably time for a second edition of his marvelous book of fiction.

The firemen in whose honor a memorial service was held last night deserve as well from the city as though they had fallen in battle. They gave their lives, and no man can do more.

Every national guardsman who wants the organized militia to form the basis of a reserve army will have himself and his equipment in shipshape in time for the inspection of the State troops, which is to begin next week.

Twice as much gold was used for wedding rings in England last year as in the preceding twelve months. Conscriptio in for single men first, and Chaucer, among others, wrote that "of harness two the lesse is for to choose."

Mr. Wilson, who wrote a book on the true George Washington, may find consolation in the thought that his contemporaries know as little about the true Woodrow Wilson as was known about the first President by the men who shared his tasks.

German papers find that the first year of U-boat activity was not so successful as it might have been if it had not been for the protest from the United States. Thanks for the compliment, but hasn't humanity anything to do with it? Or has it?

Why should the brewers be assumed to confess how much they paid to the campaign funds? No man who wants an Ambassadorship has ever hesitated to remind the powers that be of how much he contributed toward making them what they are. Can it be that the contributors and contributors are ashamed of the transaction?

Mr. Cattell, who is fond of describing the wonders of this city, may say in his next statistical address that a man lives here who on one evening made six after-dinner speeches before he ate his own dinner, and then satisfied his hunger sitting alone in a restaurant. He can conclude by remarking that "the man who did it now stands before you." At any rate, whether he does it or not, the City Statistician is one of the wonders of the town.

After a thing has happened once it is no longer incredible. Yet, after one tunnel worker has been blown up through the silt in the bottom of the East River to the surface of the water and survived, it is difficult to believe that it could occur again. It did happen, however, on Saturday, when the force of the compressed air in the forward chamber of the tunnel boring was greater than the resisting power of the river bed, and three men were shot out like the cork from a popgun. One of them survived. He ought now to be able to get a less hazardous job posing for the movies.

To his superior officer Captain Arthur Cowan, of the Signal Corps, U. S. A., wrote:
Frankly, I don't want to put down in black and white over my signature my opinion about the way the Signal Corps has handled this work.

"This work" is, to be sure, of no importance whatever. It is only the general subject of aviation for military purposes, a branch of science in which the United States has every reason, through tradition and through native genius, for surpassing Europe. Senator Robinson's demand for an investigation should meet with more than perfunctory support. If we are to have an air corps, it must be a good one, for the war has shown that with imperfect air support the best intentions of armies on the field may be brought to naught.

George Williams, a London dry goods clerk, founded the first Young Men's Christian Association in the world on June 6, 1844. The first associations in America were founded in Boston and Montreal in 1851, modeled on the one which Mr. Williams had established seven years earlier. The first Young Women's Christian Association was also established in London in 1855. It was started for the benefit of self-supporting young women, and especially for the nurses who had returned from the Crimea. The first American association was organized in the Illinois Normal University in 1873, though there had been independent Christian associations for young women in other places at an earlier date. The organization has expanded until it has branches in 245 cities and in 721 schools and colleges. The semi-centennial, which the local

branch of the association celebrated on Saturday night, was that of the organization of the first society in London. There was need for the young men's associations long before they were organized, but the associations for young women were established about as soon as the young women began to leave their homes to take their place as wage-earners along with their brothers.

GERMANY DEFEATS HERSELF

Strategists of the Entente assert that the war was lost and won at the Marne, September, 1914. If that is true it is because the Germans have defeated themselves by teaching their enemies how to fight. The operations in the West and more recently the fall of Erzerum are examples. The present standing of the countries does not, however, point to an immediate decision.

A MAJOR in the British army has written a book to prove that Germany has lost the war, lost it when the drive on Paris failed and the troops staggered back from the Marne to the Aisne and entrenched themselves for the winter. It is a comforting theory for the Entente, but it has held out little comfort to Serbia. Yet it has a basis of fact. The general plan of war, which Bernhardi so explicitly stated, was to crush one enemy while the other was still awkwardly mobilizing. It is possible that the fascination of Sedan turned the first German armies westward instead of east. It is more likely that the stamina of France was underrated, while full credit was given to the resources of Russia. Victories over Russia are, apparently, never decisive. In any case, once the operation was begun it assumed the form of a deep thrust into France. A terrible defeat of the main French army was to release the great part of Germany's attacking force for service in the East. If, after France were defeated, Russia still cared to fight, the armies would be ready.

That is the general outline of the German plan as Germany announced it and as military experts since have accepted it. It explains everything except the one precaution taken by Germany, which was the development of trench warfare. The German High Command had said or implied that a long war against two enemies would be disastrous. They had emphasized the necessity for a quick, vital thrust. And they had prepared for the failure of that movement. From the attention paid to the trench one would judge that Germany had prepared for everything except success.

The first thing the Allies learned from the Germans, and learned with astonishing rapidity and thoroughness, was trench warfare. The French, no doubt, had anticipated such a war to a small extent. The British were notoriously bent on continuing the style of battle known in 1870. But they learned their lesson, and all that Germany prepared in years of secrecy was adopted by her enemies before six months were out. Hence the deadlock on land.

Russia has hardly learned that elementary lesson yet, but it has learned another. The mobilization of Russia's troops was effected as by a miracle, but it was treacherous. The army was present, but not prepared, and the early successes were preludes to the later defeats. Russia has most of the faults of monarchy, and the great fault of democracy in addition—that it cannot act swiftly and adequately at the same time. Przemysl and Warsaw mark the lesson which Germany set out to teach Russia. Riga and Erzerum show that the lesson has been learned. The fall of Erzerum was a triumph for German methods. The Grand Duke left nothing to the improvised valor for which his troops are famous. He left nothing to the possible mistakes of the Turks. Erzerum fell because Germany has taught Russia how to make war.

Valor alone cannot be taught, and it would probably turn out, if all the evidence were at hand, that neither side needed instruction. If the Entente Allies have learned to make war after a year and a half, in which they held off disaster by courage and will and faith, how long will it take them to win? The answer cannot be given unless the actual ratio of exhaustion between the enemies and the actual available fighting forces of each be known. On the field Germany has approached a decision, but not won it. She has fortified herself by signal success in the chambers of the diplomats. She is preparing a last desperate attempt to win some freedom on the seas. Whether there is bread in Germany no one on this side can tell.

Germany, with the occupied sections of France, Russia, with Belgium, Serbia and Albania, towers far above the Allies with their captured German colonies in Asia and Africa. But Germany with all her hoarded lands is powerless before the Allies with the sea in their power. Against Bulgaria the Allies may pit their privilege of action in Greece. Against the failure at Gallipoli they place the opening of Armenia through the fall of Erzerum. So much for the past. The future is hardly dark for them.

The pressure on Egypt has been either relieved or shifted by the new Russian victory. The inducements to Romania to enter the war have been increased by the resilient snap-back of the same Russians. On the Western front nothing has happened to the Allies so spectacular as the advance in September made by themselves. England has apparently solved the twin questions of men and munitions. Italy waits for a concerted movement in which the three sides of the triangle will begin to squeeze together.

Against these glowing possibilities Germany has nothing—except success. There is no reason to believe that her armies are undone, no ground for believing that her magnificent commanders have lost their cunning of battle. She may have lost the war in September, but the Allies did not win it. Since then she has fought with a calculated desperation which must be the wonder of the world. But the world cannot stop to admire while its fate rests still on the lap of the gods.

FREE CONCERTS
WEDNESDAY The joint committee of Councils meets to discuss plans for continuation of free Sunday concerts. If the meeting is open to the public, it should be well attended.

The Philadelphia Orchestra has done a great work in a very limited time. It has established both the possibility and the necessity of concerts on Sunday. It stands willing to give such concerts without profit to the organization if it can be guaranteed against loss. The owners of the Metropolitan Opera House are willing to open the auditorium at cost. It remains only for the small expenditure to be met. The city, far more than any individual, should uncloset the purse. There must be no question of charity, there should be no question of beneficence in a municipal function. Councils appropriate money for concerts on City Hall plaza all summer. It can hardly refuse to appropriate something for concerts at the Metropolitan all winter.

Tom Daly's Column

IN PHILADELPHIA February 22 is always Washington's Birthday first, of course, but after that it has come to be known, of late years, as University of Pennsylvania Day. The University will be sparring around on the front page tomorrow. "You'll be up playing Cornell," said some one who keeps close tabs on our movements, "so why not let the University of Pennsylvania substitute for you and run your column?" We were tickled to death. So the editors of the Punch Bowl will less things in this yard tomorrow. The editor-in-chief of that college come, we note, is Loyal Y. Graham. We lived as a kid within a stone's throw of Olivet Church, of which his distinguished ancestor of the same name was pastor, and we're glad to be able to say now that we never throw it.

Give a rouse, then. Lift your glasses, men, to the Punch Bowl!
MOIRA O'NEILL'S "Songs of the Glens of Antrim" have attained the "fifteenth impression"—whatever that means, and we hope it's 15,000 copies sold—but we're certain of one thing, that her work isn't known here as it should be. James Whitcomb Riley raves about it. That great and lovable singer, whose ear is always close to the human heart, held us by the lapel of the coat on an Indianapolis street corner on a frosty morning half a dozen years ago and recited this gem of hers to us:

Sure he's five months old, an' he's two foot long,
Baby Johnnie;
Watch yerself now, for he's terrible strong,
Baby Johnnie.
An' his fists 'll be up if ye make any slips,
He has finger-ends like the daisy-tun,
But he'll have ye attend to the words of his lips,
Will Johnnie.
There's nobody can rightly tell the colour of his eyes,
This Johnnie;
For they're partly o' the earth an' still they're partly o' the skies,
Like Johnnie.
So far as he's travelled he's been laughin' all the way,
For the little soul is square an' wise, the little heart is gay;
An' he likes the merry daffodils, he thinks they'd do to play,
With Johnnie.
He'll sail a boat yet, if he only has his luck,
Young Johnnie.
For he takes to the water like any little duck,
Boy Johnnie;
Sure there are the hands now to pull on a rope,
An' his fate for walkin' the deck on a ship,
But the ship she must wait a wee while yet,
I hope,
For Johnnie.

For we couldn't do wantin' him, not just yet,
Oh, Johnnie;
'Tis you that are the daisy, an' you that are the pot,
Wee Johnnie.
Here's to your health, an' we'll drink it tonight,
Slainte gail an' mairchee! Live an' do right,
Slainte gail an' mairchee! May your days be bright,
Johnnie!

Suspicious
"THERE'S a man in room 42 who signed the register 'John Bright, New York,'" said the hotel clerk, "and I think we'd better keep an eye on him."

"Why so?" asked the proprietor.
"He remarked that this is his first visit to Philadelphia and he thinks the town is great."

All Right—Do Your Worst!
Sir—I notice that you have trapped a new leg of mirth in "Favorite Similes." May I suggest that you expand the idea to include other figures of speech? Mixed metaphors is a phrase rich in suggestion. Of course, you heard of the Irish orator who said he would like to shake hands with every face in the audience, and of the other Irishman who, having hunted a hawker out of the sea until his little boat was nearly sinking, remarked, "Some man must have out the lid off o' that rone." (Is that a bull or a mixed metaphor?)

DYKES CRAMER, who builds all those ads about a certain tobacco, writes to us:
"You'll be interested to know that I have started a collection of babies myself, a 'regular fellow' of a boy arriving on January 21. His first remark was, 'How, whether he meant the 'national joy smoke' or his dad, darn if I know.'"

We ought to charge you \$1 a line for this stuff, Dory, but let that be our present to the young lad.
The Harvesters
The youth who sows wild oats, 'tis true,
Must reap as he hath sown;
But then his father ought to do
Some thrashing of his own.

WOULD YOU DECLINE THE BEX REGIS—YET?
Sir—A North 20th street carman has just sent the Rex Hotel. I wonder what is the objection to Robert Poltrone?
Yelkew asks if this is interesting, as showing the antiquity of modern slang:
"His was a little wanting here," touching his forehead; "nobody at home, if you knocked over so often," said Squeezers, speaking of poor Smiley.
—Nicholas Nickleby, Part I, Chapter 34.

The Scotch-Irelander
A. McClure has the floor.
Yes, Thranee, some one will tell you what a Scotch-Irelander is. Just listen:
About the time England began a settlement of Virginia, some authorities like Milton thought the emigrants should choose Ireland instead. But many British preferred to fight Indians rather than face the cruetries of the latter. A thousand early and a hundred later in a territory about 150 miles wide by 300 miles long. The British did not mind scrapping, but they had to have to relax every day, who was a king and who was an earl over night. Besides, the British loved settlements. There could never be a settlement of anything in Ireland. (To this day, Thranee, nothing has ever been settled in Ireland. It is sent from tip to tip with unsettled subjects like patriots, landlords and other sources of disturbances.) In Virginia a dead Indian settled produced peace; in Ireland a dead Irishman produced only banishes (as you have so ably related), with the consequent woe and penalties.

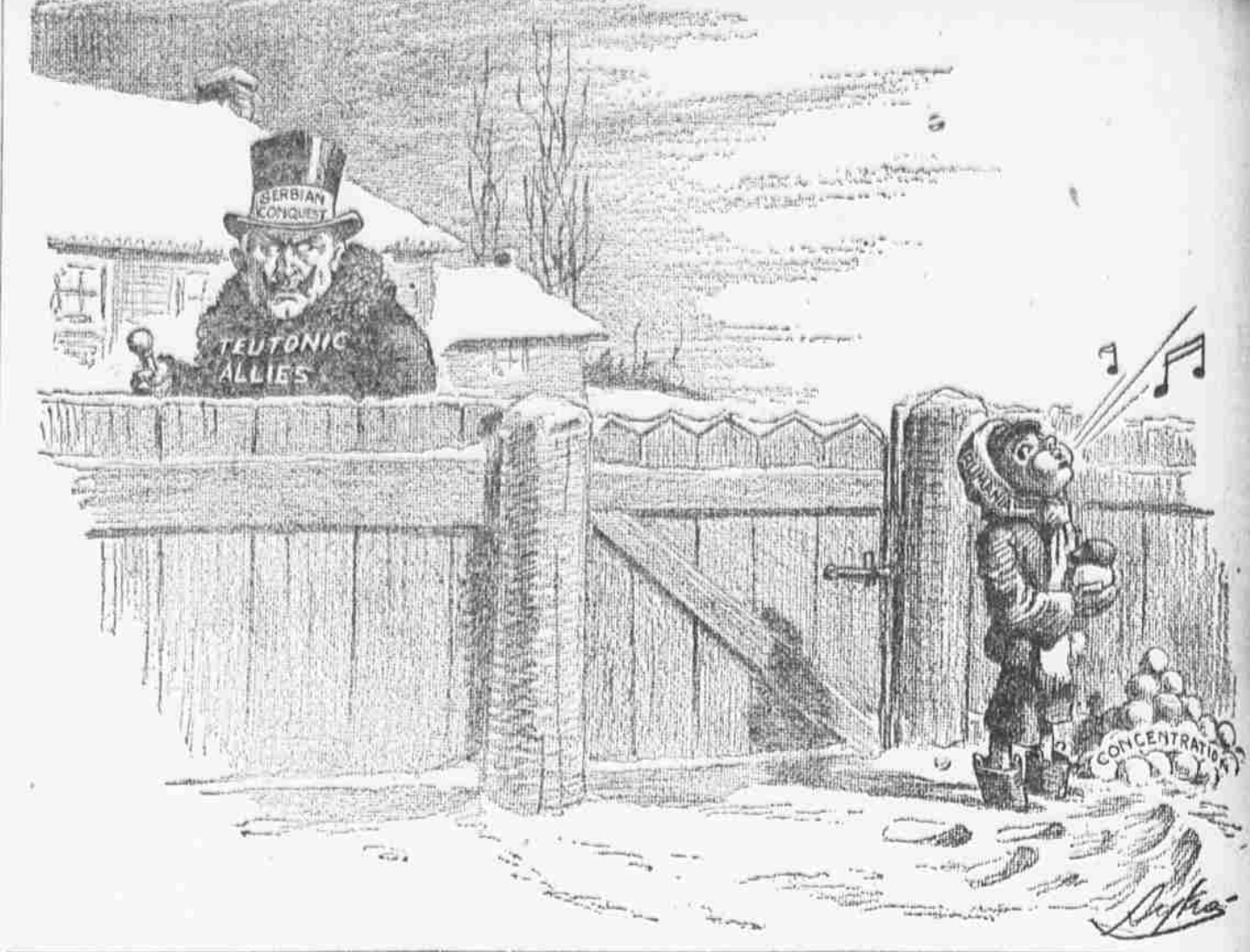
And he it said, to their credit, in my mind, the Irish could keep nothing. It was either taken from them or they gave it away. Is it any wonder they could not keep treaties? So it happened that up in Ulster one or two of the "earl" people acted in such a way regarding certain solemnly made documents that they concluded it wiser to skip, so they skipped, making thereby an ancient landmark in history known as "the flight of the earls." They never came back.

Their estates escheated to the British crown. The latter seized the occasion also to transplant to these lands law-abiding people. First they wanted only English to settle on them, and they got some English from London, who settled around Londonderry. But the Scotch got wind of the scheme, and before the English knew what was what these Scotch, permitted to transplant themselves to this "plantation," as it was called, had taken possession of almost all of Ulster. They have held it since, being Scotch.

Take notice, Thranee, that the British did not let the Scotch on the sea coast fringe of Scotland go over to the planters in Ulster. Only "Scotch from the interior parts of Scotland" could go there. The others could go to a hotter place, as to the Virginia plantations. You see, that Scotchman who had already acquired property which no one had yet succeeded in taking from them. That showed such Scotch could be depended upon to hold their lands in Ulster against any Irish. If a Scotchman can't take anything from you no one can, take it from me. And, believe me, Thranee, it was some job in those days to keep the Irish from enjoying what you might have acquired in pain and misery of body, if not in soul.

(Parody on the Interjection, J. McClure; you're going, Sir, but we're closing up for the night. You won't let you. Come around again on Wednesday.)

"WATCHFUL WAITING" ISN'T CONFINED TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE



POISONING AS A PROFESSION

Flourished in the Dark Ages—Fatal Politics of Statesmen of Various Periods of History—Modern War Like Ancient Politics

MACAULAY described Frederick the Great as "half Mithridates and half Trissotin, bearing up against a world in arms, with an ounce of poison in one pocket and a quire of bad verses in the other." Macaulay's characterizations often flow wide of the mark, and perhaps so in this case. So far as the verses are concerned, it has been said of Frederick that he was "a voluminous writer." That seems to cover the ground most admirably. One of the subjects of which he wrote in prose was the science of war. He was indeed the great military organizer of Prussia. He emitted poisons from his list of weapons of warfare. So, although he may have carried an ounce of poison in his pocket, he never went into the poisoning business on the wholesale scale which we have witnessed in the warring Europe of today. The Borgias and the Medici are held up to the detestation of mankind, but they and their like poisoned individuals, not armies.

From Chicago the trail of the poison plot leads to many cities, and the conspirators are being run down with all the energy of those agencies to which the task belongs. It is not a pleasant story, but the wages of poison plotting are hard, and so we may thank goodness. Once on a time there existed a profession of poisoners. They exercised their trade with impunity in the early part of the Christian era. "Poisoning," says an historian, "was so much in use as a political engine that Agrippina refused to eat some apples offered her at table by her father-in-law, Tiberius." That was the second Agrippina. Her mother was one of the most heroic and virtuous women of antiquity. The daughter, however, was one of the most detestable women that ever lived. In her second widowhood she induced her uncle, the Emperor Claudius, to marry her. In order to bring her son Nero to the throne, she poisoned her husband. Nero afterward caused her to be poisoned—by her son Britannicus.

When Locusta Flourished
It was at this time, too, that the infamous Locusta flourished. She is said to have supplied, with suitable directions, the poison by which Agrippina got rid of Claudius; and she was also the principal agent in the preparation of the poison that was administered to Britannicus by order of his brother, Nero.

"It was the custom of the Romans to drink hot water," says Mr. Wynter Blythe; "a draught mauseous enough to us, but, from fashion or habit, considered by them a luxury. And as no two men's tastes are alike, great skill was shown by the slaves in bringing the water to exactly that degree of heat which their respective masters found agreeable. A slave brings water to Britannicus; it is too hot; Britannicus refuses it. The slave adds cold water; and it is this cold water that is supposed to have been poisoned. In any case, Britannicus died, an extraordinary lividity spreading over the corpse, which they attempted to conceal by painting the face."

An earlier poisoning case that figures both in history and in literature concerns the Oriental despot mentioned by Macaulay. The most famous of the kings of Pontus was Mithridates the Great, a man who could speak more than 20 languages, possessed a taste and appreciation for art and science and was called by the Romans the most formidable opponent they had ever encountered. But he had his faults. After practicing on others he took poison. This he did to avoid falling into the hands of his enemies, but owing to his long-continued use of antidotes the draught failed in its effect and the King threw himself upon the sword of a slave. Racine's tragedy, entitled "Mithridates," deals with this theme.

Poison has played a great part in history. Demosthenes, one of the noblest characters of ancient Greece, began his participation in public affairs when he was about 25 years old. From that time until his death in 322 B. C. his history is the history of Athens. He it was who warned his fellow citizens of their danger from the power of Macedonia and roused them to stand against the advance of the enemy. His speeches in this patriotic endeavor are classics of literature. Finally the power of Macedonia prevailed in Greece and the orator sought asylum in the temple of Poseidon, on the island of Calauria. Before his pursuers overtook him he died, as was generally believed, of poison admin-

What Do You Know?

Queries of general interest will be answered in this column. Ten questions, the answers to which every well-informed person should know, are asked daily.

- QUIZ
1. When and where was the circulation of the blood discovered?
2. Where is the Bridge of Sighs?
3. Name the two legislative chambers of Germany.
4. About when did the Byzantine Empire begin?
5. Who were the Centaurs?
6. How many Chief Justices of the United States have there been up to this time?
7. In what century was the Great Wall of China begun?
8. Who said "Cleanliness is next to godliness"?
9. Where are the Dry Tortugas?
10. When was the eagle first used on American coin?

- Answers to Saturday's Quiz
1. Philadelphia.
2. Seven years and a half.
3. Yes.
4. Former First Lord of the Admiralty, Great Britain.
5. One who believes in or advocates the abolition of institutional authority.
6. Yes.
7. John Adams.
8. No.
9. Dissection of or (toeless) any experiment practiced upon living animals.
10. School-III, with even accents.

Big Railroad Stations
Editor of "What Do You Know"—Is not the South Station in Boston the largest railroad station in America, if not in the world?

DEWEY SQUARE
No. It covers only 9.2 acres and only 23 tracks enter it. The St. Louis Union Station is more than an acre larger and can accommodate as many trains. The largest station is the Grand Central Terminal in New York, which covers 79 acres and can accommodate 67 trains at once. Both the Boston and the St. Louis stations are larger than any in Europe.

Live Dogs and Dead Lions
Editor of "What Do You Know"—Can you tell me where I can find the saying that "A live dog is better than a dead lion"? I think it is by Shakespeare, but I have looked in vain for it.

Will some reader answer this question?
K. C. B.
Editor of "What Do You Know"—In the new I sometimes notice the letters K. C. B. after a general's name. For what do they stand?

Knight Commander of the Bath.
Words in Other Languages
Editor of "What Do You Know"—You told "Mother" last Saturday that there are 484,000 words in the English language. Can you tell me how that number compares with the words in German and French?

FRIEDRICH
The largest German dictionary contains 160,000 words, and there are only 210,000 words in the greatest French dictionary. The Russian and Italian dictionaries contain 140,000 each and the Spanish 129,000.

Loading Around the Throne
Editor of "What Do You Know"—I heard a minister quote the saying that angels had better business than loading around the throne. I want to get the whole quotation, and appeal to you.

BABY WEEK
It appears in "Little Breeches" by John Jay, which tells the story of a 4-year-old boy who was lost on a prairie at night in a snowstorm. He was found safe in a sheepfold. The concluding stanza of the poem contains the quotation referred to. Here it is:

How did he get there? Angels—
He could never have walked in that storm—
They just stooped down and toted him—
To where it was safe and warm.
And I think that saving a little child,
And fetching him to his own,
Is a durned sight better business
Than loading around the throne.

Comfort of Being Thought Mad
Editor of "What Do You Know"—Can you tell me the origin of the phrase, "Being surrounded by the general comfort of being thought mad"? Philadelphia, February 18.

Does any reader know where this saying came from?
Asiaties as Citizens
Editor of "What Do You Know"—Has there been a time in the history of the United States when a Japanese or Chinaman could become a citizen of the United States? Philadelphia, February 18, 1916.

Before the passage of the law denying the right to Asiaties, Japanese were admitted to citizenship under the exercise of the restriction of citizenship under the naturalization court.
U-Boats
Editor of "What Do You Know"—Why do our call them U-boats.
It is generally taken to mean "underground" or submarine boats. The British and American numbering by letters and figures refers to the types of vessels.

The Greatest Port
Editor of "What Do You Know"—In Philadelphia one of the great seaports of the world I know it is the second or third greatest in the United States, but how does it compare with the other world ports?

CENTRAL HIGH
New York is the greatest world port, with an annual clearance of 31,000,000 tons of shipping, engaged in foreign trade. Antwerp comes next, followed in order by London, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Liverpool, Singapore, Colombo and Cardiff.