

A Boston swimmer issues a challenge for "a mile dash." Wouldn't "a mile splash" be better?

Unstable as Central and South American republics may be, Zelaya has been inaugurated president of Nicaragua for the third time.

Dr. Gilman, who has been elected president of the great Carnegie institution in Washington, is 70 years old. In the realm of high thought and vast enterprise this is not yet exclusively "the young man's age."

The objects which great international enterprises find in their way the not men, but interests. And interests are even more lifeless than corporations, which are said to have no souls, reflects the Christian Register.

A mine explosion in Mexico has caused the death of more than 100 men. Within a recent period fatal explosions of every sort have been amazingly frequent and destructive. It is painfully evident that long familiarity with the storage and handling of dangerous compounds has in many countries bred a contempt which has been followed by distressful calamities.

Odors as an assistance to diagnosis is a new branch of medical science. The Medical Record is authority for the statement that the odor of new mown hay is an indication of pyaemia, typhus is indicated by an ammoniac smell, jaundice by a musky one, yellow fever by the odor of a gun barrel, hysteria by a suggestion of violets or pineapples, intermittent fever by the smell of fresh baked brown bread, and measles by one like fresh picked feathers. It seems somewhat incongruous that the smell of the plague resembles honey.

The Denver Republican states that the fact that Germany and the United States are drawing near to each other need not have the effect of estranging any other friend from the Americans. There are considerations that suggest that Great Britain and the United States should always be warm friends, whatever the relations between this country and any other power, and in like manner we may maintain relations of the most friendly character with Germany, France, Russia and each of the other powers of the Old World.

There is a burglar, or set of burglars, in Paris with knowledge of the classics, and making good use of the episode of the wooden horse. A series of the mysterious burglaries that puzzled the police were found on investigation to be more or less connected with a wooden horse. The horse was one of those frequently seen in harness shops for display purposes. Its owners generally fixed on a promising location, and persuaded the porter of the place to let the horse remain in his stable or courtyard until morning. During the night the robberies would occur. Strange as it may seem, this horse was used a dozen or more times before the police decided to watch it. When they did they found concealed in it a young rascal, who, at the appointed time, would creep out and let his confederates into the premises. Once caught, the men confessed that they had stolen the horse for this purpose.

To solve the problem of keeping young people from flocking to the cities, the Great Round World cites the modernized "Village Hall," as a centre for the social interests of the community and says: "The present tendency of the younger generation in rural communities to seize the earliest opportunities of finding homes in the larger cities, is due in considerable part to a sense of social needs. Existence becomes monotonous where there is no social variety, and aside from the desire for larger business profit and for making more of a name, the longing to know more people, to see more sights and to get more closely into touch with affairs is a persistent pull on the content of the average rural young man or woman. It is quite evident, therefore, that if the young people are to be kept in the towns and villages, something must be done to improve their social surroundings. Their need must be met—and met wholesomely and as completely as possible. At the same time such an effort, properly carried out, is certain to bring educational results of other values, for to make the community desirable to the young it must be modernized, it must be knit more closely together, it must be brought into nearer relation with the world outside. All this can be accomplished only by emphasizing the points of agreement among the inhabitants."



Oh, the Easter egg sat on the pantry shelf,
And its oval face wore a crafty smile—
"I think I can travel alone," said the elf,
"And I won't come back for a long, long while."

But a gray old rat heard the odd remark
While passing by the pantry door—
"That's right," he squealed, "we'll have a lark
If you'll just drop gently down to the floor."

So the flattered egg puffed till its face
Was red
And rolled itself over and over, and then
Smashed on the floor—and the old rat
Said:
As he ate: "You'll never go back again."



In all lands, wherever the Christian religion prevails, the anniversary on the resurrection was celebrated Sunday. Easter Day is an occasion for triumphant rejoicing, in which youth and age and joyous spring unite. The praiseful song mingles with the gladsome note of the birds, and the odor of flowers lends a sweetness to the festival that adds to the genuinely pious sentiment pervading the day.

"the ancient Athenes celebrated the awakening of the earth and the blossoming time of the year with pipes and paens of rejoicing, and processions to the violet-crowned hills of our Acropolis." Our Saxon ancestors continued the celebration of Easter for eight days. After the long penitential season of Lent; after the forty days of doing good, and abstinence from public amusements, marriage festivities and other worldly attractions, and after the long winter's burial, when the earth has been wrapped in somber shades, the people found legitimate gratification in the celebration of the spring festival.

During the Easter festival in earlier times slaves received their freedom, the poor and needy were helped and feasted, bonfires were lighted, scenic representations, games, songs and dances were indulged in; even the clergy recited from the pulpit stories and legends for the amusement of their hearers—an odious custom against which the reformers of the sixteenth century successfully issued their remonstrance. A game played with egg-shaped balls of various colors was a favorite sport in which municipal corporations formerly engaged. The game was kept up with considerable pomp and ceremony, even into the early part of the nineteenth century.

Deep religious fervor dominates the character of the people of Holland, and in the period before Easter their devotions are especially marked. No more charming picture can be found anywhere than is here presented, that of a spring confirmation class. The sweet, fresh faces of the young girls have the rapt expression that betokens a devout nature and speaks of that rare quality in human character, sincerity.

The "Feast of the Eggs" has ever been the most popular of the Easter observances. The egg is the ancient symbol of the new birth, and a religious significance has always been given to its use at Easter. The Hebrews use

with a red silk banner inscribed with the word "Alleluja" waving above it. The "washing of feet" on the Thursday before Easter has long been a custom in the Roman church, and still survives. It is intended to inculcate humility among the high and mighty princes of the world, both temporal and ecclesiastic. James II. was the last of the English kings who performed the ceremony. In Austria, however, the emperor still keeps up the rite under circumstances of great splendor. In the Tyrol on Easter Eve bands of musicians in quaint garments traverse the country, guitars in hand, singing Easter hymns somewhat in the fashion of our carol singers at Christmas.

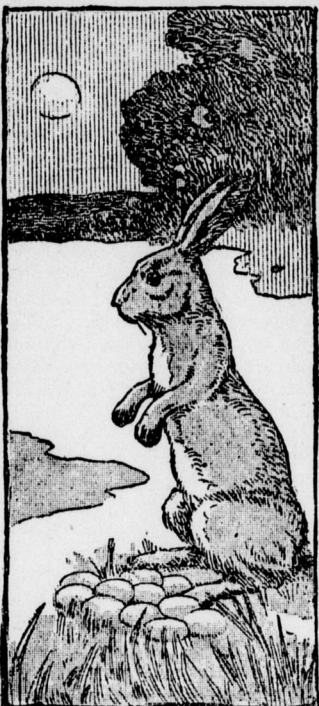
In early times the religious part of the Easter festival consisted principally in the daily services held in the churches, which were lighted on Easter Eve by immense "Paschal tapers," weighing 200 or 300 pounds. On Easter Sunday the people saluted each other with the Easter kiss (the kiss of brotherhood still obtains in the Russian church), and the exclamation, "Christ is risen," receiving the reply, "He is risen indeed." The service being over the people returned to their worldly affairs or gave themselves up entirely to pleasure. But a gradual change has been going on during the long ages, and the occasion is now observed with a loftier conception of the true meaning of Easter.

Easter-Tide With Foreign Nations.

In France, before Easter the priests begin their rounds of visits, blessing and receiving eggs in return. The largest of these were selected and sent as a tribute to the king. After high mass in the Louvre, highly gilded and piled in pyramids, they were carried into the royal presence. Then having been blessed by the chaplain they were distributed among the people. In Italy the same custom was employed. In Russia Easter is "at-home day," as New Year's is with us, and every man

The Legend of the Rabbit.

There is a curious and very sweet little legend cherished by German children concerning the Easter rabbit. Once upon a time, they tell us, a nice, kind rabbit, who was walking along a quiet woodland road, came across a fine, large nest filled with eggs. The poor mother-hen had been seized by a wicked fox and could not go back to



her darling nest, so this kind rabbit slept all night upon it, and when he woke in the morning (it was Easter morning) the nest was full of little, downy, yellow chickens. The chickens thought the rabbit was their own mamma, so they cried out for something to eat, and the rabbit ran about and fetched food for them, and kept them warm and fed until they were all old enough to take care of themselves. Ever since then the rabbit has been the special genius of Easter-time, and this holiday is not complete for German little folks without an "Oster Hase's nest." It holds many a favor and present, serving the same purpose that Christmas stockings and wooden shoes do at Christmas-time.

An Easter-Remembrance Booklet.

A pretty Easter remembrance can be made in the shape of a dainty booklet, containing an appropriate or helpful poem for your friend. These booklets may be made in two ways. The leaves and cover may be made twice the size of the page desired, then rolled and stitched with silk cord or narrow ribbon, and tied in a knot at the back. Or they may be cut into pages instead of leaves, holes punched at the back about an inch from the edge, and a ribbon run through and tied. Cut sheets of the tinted paper to the shape and size you wish your book. Unruled tinted paper, wholly out of place for correspondence, may be used to advantage, as it is already of a suitable size. Other paper may be cut in long, narrow sheets, to be fastened at one end. The poem is to be written or type-written, using as many pages as desired, but only one side of the paper. The booklets sold at the stores are good models of how much or how little to put on a page. Select a picture, or several of them, suitable to the poem, and mount them on pages of the same size. From fancy board cut a cover a little larger than the pages. On the front of the cover put a picture or an Easter greeting. Bind with ribbon.—Florence Marian Critchlow, in the Woman's Home Companion.

Easter Favors.

Where the party is small, a dozen or so of guests, it is usual to provide small gifts or favors to the departing guest. These are often of silver, articles of small value, which can be conveniently carried home. Moral: Do not bestow silver pencils. One little girl has seven already. A pot of flowering daffodils, hyacinth or crocus is a pleasant favor for Eastertide parties. The flat, small box of bonbons, chocolates preferred, is tied up with bright colored satin ribbon and used for a favor. Small Easter eggs, Easter bunnies or chocolate chickens are also used for favors.

An Easter Situation.



"Honest, Mr. Rabbit, we weren't looking for your eggs."—Harper's Bazar.

THE GREAT DESTROYER

SOME STARTLING FACTS ABOUT THE VICE OF INTEMPERANCE.

The Tragedy of Michael Kilroy—Alcoholic Drinks Transformed Him Into a Fiend—Murdered His Wife in the Presence of His Children—Such Cases Common.

When Michael Kilroy reeled home in the early hours of the holy Sabbath of Sunday, January 26, in the Christian city of Boston, his pockets empty of the money that he had promised to his wife to buy the clothing for lack of which his children were freezing; when he answered her appeal for the fulfillment of his promise with a blow that knocked her to the floor; when he choked, with his fingers upon her throat, her appeal for mercy; when he kicked her with his heavy boots, and she about to become the mother of another child; when he sat for hours unmoved, listening to her moans and watching her suffering; when he mistreated her helpless children who would have brought her help; when he struck away the water that her little daughter was lifting to her bloody, thirsting lips—it was drink, gentlemen—the drink that Professor Atwater tells us is food—the drink that you gentlemen recommend in "moderation," that made him drunk in earth nor hell has any other agency been found, in the history of the whole human race that inspired men to such deeds.

But drink, gentlemen, alcoholic drink, not only made Michael Kilroy do that brutal, devilish deed, but has transformed uncounted thousands of men, women and children of the same character, and has driven them to deeds equally brutal. Drink, gentlemen, has inspired such tragedies so commonly and in such multitude that the public scarcely pauses to notice their occurrence. Drink, gentlemen, to-day preparing more men for just such deeds as that, and you know and we know and the world knows that it will take boys from your churches, boys from your schools, aye, God pity you, perhaps boys from your homes, and will make them into such brutes to work such fiendish crimes in future years on women who to-day are lovely and loving girls.

It was only twelve days before the butchery in that Boston tenement that Vincent Vincelsk came home drunk in Pittsburg and chopped his wife and little children to death with a rail-cutter. It was only thirteen days before that John Blissett, of Detroit, drunk, emptied his revolver into his wife's body and poured kerosene over her and stood with lighted match to make her a burnt offering to drink when the police broke in upon him. It was just one month and a day before that a father in Indiana came home drunk, sought to kill his wife with a hatchet and was shot dead by his son.

But why go on with such a list? The cases are innumerable and before Michael Kilroy came home to kill Bridget you and we and everybody in the whole land knew that some man, because of the drink traffic, would come home and kill his wife, and that the terrible procession of crime would keep right on.—The New Voice.

Dr. Atwater Reputated.

The American Medical Association at its annual meeting in St. Paul unanimously adopted the following resolutions: "Whereas, The American Medical Association, the members of which are physicians and medical teachers who have devoted years to the study of alcohol and its effects, and who are conversant with the work done by scientific men the world over to determine the effects of alcohol when given in any quantity, have noted the teaching of Professor W. O. Atwater, of Wesleyan University, upon the food and medical value of alcohol as set forth by him in the pages of the influential lay press; be it

"Resolved, That this association utterly repudiates the pro-alcoholic doctrine of the said Professor W. O. Atwater as being contrary to the evidence deduced by scientific experimentation, and that his conclusions are unwarranted by the evidence resulting from his own experiments. Be it further

"Resolved, That this association regards the teaching of Professor W. O. Atwater as erroneous and a source of danger to the laity inasmuch as such teaching contributes towards the increased consumption of alcoholic beverages by giving supposed reason for their safe use."

(Signed) N. S. DAVIS, M. D., Pres., Chicago, Ill.
T. D. CROTHERS, M. D., Sec., Hartford, Conn.

A Traffic That Causes.

The horrors of the drink traffic have never been fully portrayed. No pencil is black enough to paint the picture and do it full justice. No tongue is eloquent enough to tell the sad story in all its dreadful details. The use of alcoholic beverages is of all scourges the most wide and withering. It is a physical curse: Bleeding the eyes, blistering the tongue, deranging the stomach, paralyzing the nerves, hardening the liver, poisoning the blood, coagulating the brain, inducing and aggravating many diseases, and digging many premature graves. It is a financial curse: Draining the pocket, producing poverty, diminishing comfort, multiplying miseries, filling almshouses, increasing taxes and creating hard times. It is a mental curse: Clouding the judgment and dethroning the reason, promoting ignorance, producing imbecility, and transforming its unhappy victims into maniacs and fools. It is a moral curse: Weakening the will, inflaming the passions, hushing the voices of conscience and preparing the way for every vice and crime. And yet, strange to say, there are those who advocate the removal of this curse by legalizing it. But the colossal curse of drunkenness will continue so long as drunkard factories are permitted, protected and perpetuated by law.

Why Germany is Apathetic.

At the annual meeting of the Society for Combating the Abuse of Spirituous Liquors at Beslau last month, Baron von Diergardt said he believed that alcohol would one day be universally regarded as an enemy of civilization, but at present it was only possible to recommend moderation in its use. Seven hundred and fifty millions of dollars was yearly spent in Germany on intoxicating liquors, he said, and it was estimated that the average German consumed the equivalent of five glasses of spirits a day. Baron von Diergardt added that some difficulty in the campaign was that the State itself was interested in alcohol, deriving, as it did, a revenue of \$41,000,000 from spirits and \$25,000,000 from beer.

Drink and Infant Mortality.

Dr. Whitford has gone carefully into the subject of infant mortality in Liverpool, and he reports for the years specified the following cases of suffocation almost entirely due to drink: 1890, 164; 1891, 144; 1892, 164; 1893, 196; 1894, 182; 1895, 183.

The Crusade in Brief.

The life of the saloon depends on the death of souls. Any one who wanted to find "temperance lessons" in the Bible could find an armful with both hands tied behind his back. All that the words "murder," "shame," "ruin" mean, a thousand times repeated and a thousandfold intensified, the saloon means and the saloon is. Under the influence of liquor a Jersey City man was arrested four times in five days. This is certainly an indorsement of a high order for the booze distilleries of that town.



Easter Tidings

All dewy-sweet a rose tree stood,
With roses sprinkled over,
And in the meadow by a wood
Were daffodils and clover;
And yonder by the ferny falls
A happy lark was singing,
And far across the dewy dells
The Easter bells were ringing
And while alone I went my way
By varied dune and dingle,
I heard the bells on Easter Day
Harmonious measures mingle
Best Easter bells' ring sweet and clear,
Our melancholy stealing,
Bring tidings best of love and cheer
And gladness in your pealing.
Bring joy serene to bless her way,
Far from your music flinging;
Bring peace to her this Easter Day,
Melodiously ringing.

There is no doubt that the annual coming of Easter awakens the careless in religious matters, acting as a sort of tonic to the sin-weary wanderer.

Easter has always been considered the chief festival of the Christian year. It is the sanctified symbolism of the wonderful resurrection of Christ, but it is also symbolic of the renewal of life in nature. Like many other customs, it is the perpetuation of an old usage, which became the rule in the Christian church in A. D. 68.

Easter derives its name from the



A CONFIRMATION CLASS IN HOLLAND.

Saxon goddess Estre, the personification of the east, or spring. In ancient times it was sometimes called the "Sunday of Joy," and it is said that

them at their Passover feast, and the Persians present each other with delicately-tinted eggs at a feast celebrated at a period of year corresponding with our Easter. In Scotland, on "Pash Sunday," as they call it, the young people rose early and went out to the moors to search for wild fowls' eggs for breakfast, considering it a happy omen if they found them. It is still customary to boil eggs hard, dye them different colors and give them to children to play with on Easter morning. Germany, Russia and other countries have their own peculiar observances and beliefs about the egg and its application to Easter, and there are many myths and legends in regard to eggs in nowise connected with Easter. The Hawaiians, for instance, have a superstitious legend that their "island was produced by the bursting of an egg which had been laid upon the water by a bird of great size, presumably the eagle, it being considered of great creative power and that there was no other land."

"Blessing the Food" is a curious Russian custom. Before the dinner is cooked it is brought in baskets to the churches, where priests, moving up and down, sprinkle it with holy water. In Poland elaborate preparations are made for the Easter feast. In the houses of people of means the tables groan with a multitude of dishes, in the centre of which a whole lamb is fixed upon a raised pedestal,

carries about a generous supply of hard boiled eggs. These, with Easter greetings, are exchanged with every friend he meets. Ladies who receive have platters of handsomely painted eggs to give away, and a kiss can always be claimed with the egg. Easter week in this country is the great annual wash, which can be compared only to the spring housecleaning of our country. Fun as well as work forms a part of the cleaning. Men with brushes fastened to their feet skate over the floor, while the women accompany their rhythmical movements with song.—Blanche Gardner Spinney, in the Woman's Home Companion.

A Quaint Lenten Rhyme.

"Pase-egg day" is the curious name by which Easter is called in the rhyme which gives the names of the Sundays in Lent:

Tid, Mid, Misera
Carling, Palm, "Pase-egg day."

The meaning of "Tid," "Mid" and "Misera" is lost; Carling is mid-Lent, sometimes also called "Mothering-day."



"Age cannot wither, nor custom stale her infinite variety."—Life.