

THE MILLENNIUM.

The happy time is coming. When we'll all ride in the air; Change our motors for new airplanes...

The Verdict of the Book

By Emma E. Manning

It was a queer place, that second-hand bookstore. The battered volumes of all possible shapes and sizes were queer, and so were many of those who came to examine them...

regular doctor, and it is hardly probable—but I thank you!

A week passed, and then Dr. Clifton appeared when Mr. Templemore was present, walked to where he stood by Dorothy's side and held out a book. Dorothy looked and grew startled.

A MOUSE'S PULSE.

The difficulties of a Scientist in Counting it.

How many know whether a mouse's pulse beats fast or slow? How many know that it beats ten times as fast as a man's; in other words, that it makes ten pulsations while a man's is making one?

Losing His Nerve.

Bus Driver—Ain't ye satisfied with runnin' over people? Yer wants to run over the 'esses now? Taxi Driver (Indignantly)—I haven't run over anybody for a long time.

ALL ABOUT THE HELLO GIRLS

LABOR COMMISSIONER NEILL OBSERVES THEM

He Says There is No Use for Short Girls; That the Companies Want Girls Who Can Reach—Some Require Girls With a Calm, Clear Eye and Good Appetite

If you have any trouble in getting your telephone calls through blame Labor Commissioner Neill of the Department of Commerce and Labor, and probably you won't be far out of the way. Every hello girl in the country will be busy trying to find out just what the Commissioner has said about her.

Complaints from hello girls that they had to walk up too many flights of stairs to their work were chiefly responsible for starting the Commissioner on his investigation.

Of the seventy-three exchanges reported upon by the agents of the bureau it was found that thirty-three, which were located above the first floor, were not provided with elevators.

The Commissioner finds that there is no use of short girls trying to become telephone operators. "None of the companies employ short girls; they want girls that can reach," he said.

The Commissioner finds that very few of the companies take girls without first subjecting them to a physical examination. In some cities the girls object to this, but these will be surprised to learn that they were examined without knowing it.

In one city where the girls interviewed said that no physical examination or test had been made, says the Commissioner, "it was ascertained that the applicants are interviewed by a woman whose exact height is known, and in talking to the applicants can be comparing the level of the eyes with her own tell within a fraction of an inch the height of the girl with whom she is talking.

Some of the companies, besides requiring of their candidates a calm, clear eye, a good appetite and a rosy complexion, demand that they shall have a steady hand and a firm set jaw; also that they shall not be easily excitable.

The Commissioner figures that the average working life at the switchboard is only three years. He finds that in no other industry in the United States are so great precautions taken to insure the health of the employees.

The girls of many exchanges get their luncheons right in the company's office. "Hygienic luncheons," the companies call them, and they say that these luncheons prevent the afternoon "dullness and headaches" that raise hob with the service when the "peak of the load" is reached.

The Commissioner finds also that many of the companies, especially the New York company, "is engaged in a system of welfare work among its employees." They have libraries and parlors where the girls may lounge during the rest hours; also boat ride excursions, theatre parties and art museum parties under the supervision of a competent teacher.

Mr. Neill takes the part of the telephone girls against a peevish public. He says that the average switchboard girl has a hundred telephone call signals to watch. As each call comes in a light flashes on a signal cap.

In his novel "Lourdes," Emile Zola makes the statement that the deaf and dumb recovered their hearing and sight.

um parties under the supervision of a competent teacher.

This uplift feature of the report, particularly the theatre party suggestion, has made a hit with the telephone girls in this city, and the companies that haven't got onto this wrinkle yet are sure to be informed of it.

Some of the hello girls also may want to know of their employers why they aren't furnished with roof gardens for lounging places. The Commissioner finds that some companies have such gardens and he recommends that more of them be established.

Mr. Neill takes the part of the telephone girls against a peevish public. He says that the average switchboard girl has a hundred telephone call signals to watch. As each call comes in a light flashes on a signal cap.

Under the rules of the companies she is allowed to say only "Number, please," no matter how much she is abused. When the peevish party begins to scold and asks why in thunderation he hasn't got his number, he is delaying her with the other calls that are coming in, and is not only lessening his own chance of getting quick service, but is delaying other people and making it hard for the switchboard girl.

The Commissioner adds that if the people who put off their morning telephoning until 11.30 and their afternoon telephoning until 5 would only remember that these are the heaviest hours of the day, the "peaks of the load," they would get better service and make life easier for the girls.

The Commissioner regards 225 calls an hour as the breaking point of efficiency for a girl, although she handles sometimes as many as 600 calls an hour.

The Commissioner has found that 92.7 percent of the hello girls are unmarried or "conjugal condition unknown," 4 percent are married and 2.7 percent are widows.—New York Sun.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

Stephen Phillips, the poet, was once an actor.

Grote, the historian, was, by profession, a banker.

William Makepeace Thackeray was born in Calcutta, India.

Swift, Byron, Lamb and Cowper all lived in dread of becoming insane.

A baby born amid the floods at Alfortville, Paris, has been named Moses.

The author, Frank Danby, in private life is Mrs. Julia Frankau, well known as an art critic.

Bulwer-Lytton began work every day at sunrise, and it was nearly noon before he would see any one.

There are more visitors to the birthplace of Burns than to that of Shakespeare, the register books show.

It is expected that aluminum coins of low value will be in circulation in France by the end of this year.

The American system of office towel service has caught on in several English cities, including London.

George Washington is not thought of as an author, yet his writings fill more than twelve octavo volumes.

An electric driven screwdriver, an electric portable hammer and an electric window washer have been invented.

The Rev. Samuel Skrens, vicar of Laneham, Northamptonshire, has seven sons and they are all priests of the church.

Stanley Weyman, the novelist, is 55 years old. His first novel was "The House of the Wolf," published twenty years ago.

In his novel "Lourdes," Emile Zola makes the statement that the deaf and dumb recovered their hearing and sight.

Attached to a tombstone in a Harleston (England) undertaker's shop is a card which reads: "You may telephone from here."

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

Perhaps the most noticeable thing the matter with our civilization is that it isn't civilized.

Bad habits are not necessarily ones that give us pain; sometimes they only pain other people.

One of the delights of cold weather is the purely negative joy of having no song and dance from mosquitoes.

When the aeroplane industry gets fairly on its wings some enterprising man will be starting a summer resort in Mars.

We can't be too careful of our politicians. If something grave should happen to them we might all die of sheer joy.

Some men make calculations and plans so smooth and slick that they slip up on them and get the smash of their lives.

It is all right to have great plans for tomorrow, but the essential thing is to have fine plans for today that are in brisk operation.

Plenty of persons would like to be good if it did not entail some self sacrifice and wise if it did not counsel giving up of foolishness.

Waiting for something to turn up isn't very exhilarating, and the waiters would doubtless be wildly surprised should the expected happen.

The selfish individual doesn't consider himself well equipped in any line until he feels assured that he can get the best of other people every time.

No matter to what town you go you are certain to find there the superlative of one thing or another and sometimes of both.—From "Pert Paragraphs" in the Trenton True American.

NO SMALL CHANGE IN ALASKA.

Its Use, They Say, Means Smaller Wages—Why Robbers Are Caught. "No pennies, nickels and dimes go in Alaska," said John Hoover of Fairbanks.

"Take the ordinary sack of tobacco for instance, which we get here for a nickel. There they cannot sell it for a quarter hardly, so they make it two for a quarter but will not sell one for 15 cents.

It is common cause among those people up there. They do not want nickels and dimes introduced, for introduction of small change would mean lower wages and lower prices. Ordinary shovellers get \$4 or \$5 a day now and other labor is paid in proportion. They do not want to receive lower wages.

Of course it is true that they make money on the side, almost every worker does. There is a tendency in mining to follow the rule that nuggets belong to the man who uncovers them even if they are found on the claim of the employer. I have seen men pick up nuggets worth from an insignificant sum to \$108 in value. The game up there is worth playing. I have had this bag half filled with gold dust several times—and lost it; but I expect to keep right on till I make a strike.

Mr. Hoover has with him one of the leather bags that the dust is carried in in Alaska. It is about twelve inches in length and flat and is about four inches across. It ties with a thong. "This looks as if an elephant had stepped on it," he said, "but it has had the dust in it up in the Klondike all right.

There are mighty few robbers in Alaska. It doesn't take more than four years to try a criminal and give him proper punishment up there; and besides, he can be caught. There is only one way out and that is guarded. Besides, gold dust is as easily identified as different kinds of cloth or cattle. An assayer or a banker in Seattle, for instance, will tell you whether your gold is from one creek or another. There is sometimes 10 per cent. difference in the value of the gold from streams running parallel on different sides of the same mountain. A holdup man who acquires gold dust would have to account for it when he went out, and it could be traced easily.—From the Des Moines Register and Leader.

Rio's Dock System.

Rio Janeiro proposes to construct the greatest dock system in South America, if not in the whole western hemisphere. The plans call for about ten miles of docks, in addition to the two miles already provided for. The idea is that the additional docks shall consist at first of three great piers built at a distance of 1,115 feet from each other. Completed, these docks will have a frontage of 63,320 feet, or about twelve miles. The additions planned will cost about \$19,000,000.

Gratitude for Refusal.

One of the most singular wills ever recorded was that of a British sailor, who requested his executors to give his wife a shilling to buy hazelnuts, as she had always preferred cracking them to mending his stockings. More subtle, however, was the sarcasm of a will proved in 1830, in which a wife received \$2,500, but was only to enjoy it after her death in order that "she might be buried suitably as my widow." A French merchant bequeathed a large fortune to a woman of his acquaintance to show his gratitude for her refusal to marry him twenty years before.

Point of View.

Senator Beveridge, apropos of the old-fashioned snowy winter, said the other day: "Snow, of course, has its disadvantages from some points of view. 'Snow is beautiful in its season,' Solomon said that. But I know an old Indianapolis man who, on hearing this remark of Solomon, grumbled: 'Oh, yes, no doubt it was beautiful to you sittin' with all the wives and asses of Jerusalem beside you; but if you'd been a poor stonecutter you'd never have said any such thing.'—Detroit Free Press.



Prof. Herdman, lecturing at the British Royal Institution, and describing how to tell the age of a fish, said the lines on the scales of the herring are lines of annual growth. The number of lines on the bones are another indication.

While a leaf of gold is so thin that it is impossible to measure its thickness, scales have been made which weigh it accurately. One leaf weighs one-fifth of a grain. It is so light that a breath will blow it away. Held to the light, it is translucent and greenish.

Swelling ground cannot be held by timber; means must be provided for relieving the pressure of the ground from time to time. It will cause little trouble if spaces are left between the lagging, through which the pressure may be eased at intervals by removing some of the material. Expedients such as packing with straw are valuable only until the swelling becomes sufficient to pack tightly the cushioning substance. When this becomes packed solidly it transmits the pressure to the timbers.—Scientific American.

The first Edison medal of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers was awarded to Prof. Elihu Thomson for his achievements in electricity, on the occasion of the anniversary dinner of the Institute. This medal was founded by friends of Mr. Edison, and is intended to commemorate his work.—Scientific American.

The blue rays emitted by the mercury vapor lamps have bactericidal properties which are being experimented with for the purpose of making use of them in the sterilization of drinking water. It has been demonstrated that a lamp of nine amperes and 135 volts, suspended in an ordinary cask was very effective in purifying the water. All bacteria (including the coli bacillus and Eberth's bacillus) within 12 inches of the lamp were killed in two minutes. A long series of experiments proved conclusively that one minute suffices for complete sterilization in ordinary cases, and two minutes when the water is very greatly contaminated, either naturally or artificially. The water, however, must be clear, in order that the rays may pass through it. The elevation of temperature is only a fraction of a degree and the water, after treatment, is harmless to plants and animals. Hence it appears practicable to sterilize the water supply of a city (after clarification, if necessary) by distributing powerful quartz mercury vapor lamps in the reservoirs or the mains in such a manner that every particle of water shall remain two minutes within a few inches of the lamp.

Wallace is Glad to Oblige His Neighbors. "Hey!" shouted Mr. Wallace's neighbor as Mr. Wallace hastened past his house on the way to catch the suburban train. "I'm not going in town today, Wallace; will you bring me half a dozen big screw hooks big enough to swing a hammock with?"

"Sure, Mike," said Mr. Wallace, pleasantly. "Anything else?" "Not a thing," said his neighbor; "unless you'll stop by Miller's and see if he's got my trousers cleaned. If he has, bring 'em with you." Mr. Wallace wended his way toward the station. As he passed Mrs. Pitkin's home that worthy lady caught sight of him and ran toward him gladly.

"Oh, Mr. Wallace! Mr. Wallace!" she cried. "Won't you bring me out a nice watermelon? I've tried to get one here, but there are none to be had. Get a nice big one for about 20 cents."

Mr. Wallace continued his walk toward the station, revolving things in his mind. He did not like to carry watermelons. On the way he was stopped half a dozen times by as many people. One wanted a half dozen cigars; another wanted some washers for his garden hose. Still another desired greatly and above all things a half gallon can of green paint.

Then Mrs. Wallace quit. When he came home that night it was with set jaws that he marched to his home. To all who reproached him for his neglect he replied firmly: "I'm sorry, you know; but fourteen people gave me commissions to execute and I forgot yours."

But he did not explain that he had forgotten all the fourteen—deliberately and designedly forgotten them. That was a matter he considered strictly his own business.—Galveston News.

Senator Beveridge, apropos of the old-fashioned snowy winter, said the other day: "Snow, of course, has its disadvantages from some points of view. 'Snow is beautiful in its season,' Solomon said that. But I know an old Indianapolis man who, on hearing this remark of Solomon, grumbled: 'Oh, yes, no doubt it was beautiful to you sittin' with all the wives and asses of Jerusalem beside you; but if you'd been a poor stonecutter you'd never have said any such thing.'—Detroit Free Press.