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Whether Common or Not
By WILL N. MAUPIN.

His Limitations

Man is a pretty wise animal. He has solved many problems, and as a result he is mightily puffed up. But he has his limitations. He can figure out to the fraction of a second when a certain planet will cross the path of another planet—

But he hasn't yet learned why birds migrate, nor how they fly.

He can put a lot of wheels and wire together and generate a force he calls electricity, and with it he can perform wonders—

But he doesn't know what electricity is, nor why it is.

He can generate power at a given point, convey it hundreds of miles over a slender wire, and with it light a metropolis—

But he has never been able to discover how a lightning bug or a glow worm generates light without heat.

He can build towering buildings, huge cathedrals, giant ships and immense bridges across broad and turbulent streams—

But he can not make an egg, nor explain why the inside of a watermelon is red, the outside green and the seeds black.

He can navigate the ocean and is beginning to navigate the air—

But he can not stay the ocean's tides nor divert the currents of the air.

Just about the time he gets puffed up so big over his conquests of nature that he is just about to explode with a loud report, old Mother Nature smiles and hands him a jolt that knocks all the wind out of him. He's pretty big, to be sure, but compared with what he has done what he hasn't done is as a grain of sand to the bulk of the universe.

Rural Society

The tree appeared in its bare limbs To every one's surprise; The cabbage turned away its head, Potato shut its eyes.

The talk was such corn stopped its ears

And blood-red blushed the beet; And celery turned pale with shame. While shocked was all the wheat.

The evergreen began to pine, The turnip settled down; Upon the face of four-o'clock Appeared an awful frown.

The face of all the field around Was furrowed o'er with care. Poor tree! It couldn't do a thing— For it had nought to wear.

These Make Us Tired

The speaker who says, "Now just one more word and I am done"—then keeps on talking for an hour longer.

The man who knows just how everything ought to be done and insists on telling it.

The woman who wastes time petting a blear-eyed poodle when there are so many motherless children seeking home and love.

The old graybeard who tries to act like a boy, and the old maid who tries to act kittenish.

The fellow who thinks that dollars make up for his lack of common-sense.

A Reunion

One day a Shackled Cunning met up with a Dissolved Trust and the two journeyed hastily to the nearest refreshment bazaar.

"Well, what are you doing these

days," queried the Dissolved Trust, setting down the refreshment receptacle and wiping its lips.

"Me?" Oh, I'm doing the vander-ville circuit with my wonderful 'king of the handcuffs' act. And you?"

"Oh, I'm kept busy now keeping tab on my constituent elements and figuring up my increased dividends."

In response to a light pressure upon the button the refreshment receptacles were replenished.

"Of All Sad Words—"

"My plum jelly wouldn't jell."

"I smell that peach butter scorching."

"I'm sorry, mother; but I can't leave you a cent this morning."

"Wish I could, old man; but I'm overdrawn at the bank myself right now."

"There's isn't a single ticket left in the ice book."

"Please remit."

Suspicion

"What's the prisoner charged with?" queried the police magistrate.

"No charge yet, your honor. I arrested him on suspicion."

"What is he suspected of being, or doing?"

"I think by his actions, your honor, that he is a New York policeman seeking concealment."

Paradoxical

When a man is "tight" he generally cuts loose.

When a man is "tanked up" he generally goes down.

When a man is "crooked" he generally talks his straightest.

When a woman appears in "full dress" she usually isn't.

Explained

Cumso—"How did you spend your vacation?"

Rickleigh—"At the rate of about \$15 a day. I was fool enough to put up at one of those fashionable hotels at the seashore."

Brain Leaks

Always look before you leap—then walk around it if you can.

Some men are dead a long time before they achieve success.

A symptom of indigestion—"Gone to lunch; back in ten minutes."

The man who lives for dollars gets mighty little worth while out of life.

The man who believes only what he sees or can understand has a mighty small conception of life.

Mentioning an example of self-deception—there's the man who dyes his whiskers. No one else is deceived.

We jail the man who steals dollars, but we point to the financial success of the man who robs youth of its playtime.

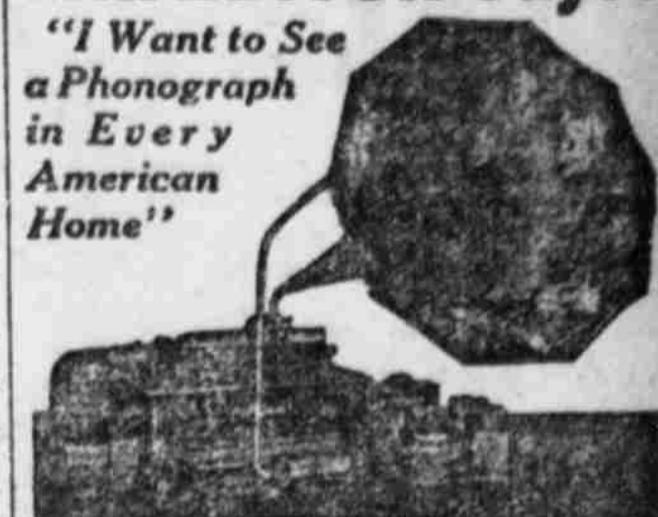
When we want to read fiction we can always find it in the advertisements of furnaces that "save one-third to one-half the fuel bill."

The easiest thing in the world to give is advice; the easiest thing in the world to make is criticism; the easiest thing in the world to take is offense.

After working for a few months at the first job I ever had I conceived the idea that the firm couldn't get along without me. But it could—and did. This country can get along without any one man.

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