BALLOON ASCENSIONS.

The Close of the Day Is the Best Time to Make Them.

"Did you ever know why it is that a balloon ascension at a country fair, promised for 2 o'clock in the afternoon, never occurs until about 6?" asked an expert parachute jumper.

"It always happens, and the explanation generally is that the preparations for the ascension could not be made in time. This is rarely the case, for the balloonist never had any intention of going up earlier than just toward the close of day. The reason for this is that not only is an ascension at any other time fraught with a little more danger on account of the winds which usually prevail, but also because by these same winds the balloon and parachute are apt to be carried too far away, perhaps so far that injury may befall them before they can be recovered.

"The old and experienced balloonist never makes an ascension except just at sundown, because with the going down of the sun the winds subside considerably. He can go almost straight up, break away his parachute and come down in the very lot from which the ascension was made.

"There is really very little danger in parachute leaping when the man who does it is experienced. The parachute must open and bring him down safely, though he will have a hair raising drop like a chunk of lead for about 100 feet, the distance usually covered before the big bag opens. Then he can guide his descent readily by raising or lowering this side or that in order to spill a little air and thus keep it from drifting.

"A balloon can't be guided, but a parachute with a man of experience hanging to it can be controlled as easily as a boat, for the reason that by tilting it on one side you can force it in the other direction and thus maneuver so that if it is desired you can deposit yourself on the very spot of the ascension. It is only the inexperienced men who drift or those who fear they may incline the bag too far for safety."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

BITS FROM THE WRITERS.

Audacity stands in the place of ancestors to those who are not well born.—Lucas Cleve.

A long, slow friendship is the best; a long, slow enmity the deadliest.—Seton Merriman.

Among the quieter satisfactions of life must be ranked in a high place the peace of a man who has made up his mind.—Anthony Hope.

Many men have ability, few have genius, but fewer still have character. Character is the rarest thing in England.—John Oliver Hobbes.

Who steals hearts steals souls, wherefore it behooves woman to look that the lock be strong and the key hung high.—F. Marion Crawford.

Any fool can get a notion. It needs training to drive a thing through—training and conviction; not rushing after the first fancy.—Rudyard Kipling.

Important Officials.

Whether the officers mentioned by Mr. Whinton in his "History of Antrim" (New Hampshire) regarded their position seriously and lived up to their official dignity is not told. It is certain that the small boys would have hailed the opportunity of exercising such functions with glee and would have discharged their duties with vigor and alacrity.

In 1793 the town of Antrim officially appointed three responsible persons to fill the position of dog pelters. It was their duty to sit near the meeting house door and to pelt, drive away or cane any dogs that dared to enter the sacred edifice. In the official records of the town are found votes of subsequent years, continuing the vocation of the dog pelters.

One might question which would make the most disturbance in the church, the chance dog or the pelters in the exercise of their official duties.

Scolding Reform.

It is accepted as a truism among educators that no child can be made permanently good by simply scolding. The overscolded child is made worse by the process, and the overscolded politician is likely to deteriorate, and for the same reason. Even a good dog will try to earn a bad name if he has it thrust too often upon him. Probably it would be an exaggerated statement to say that the essential spirit of reform in this country is the spirit of the scolding parent, but it resembles it too often.—George W. Alger in Atlantic.

An Odd Blunder.

When the British admiralty built the splendid naval barracks at Chatham they fitted up one of the largest rooms in fine style for court martials and had "Court Martial" inscribed on a big brass plate on the door. When it was about to be used for the first time the discovery was made that the regulations require all naval court martials to be held on the water.

Not Playing Futures.

"Yis, mum, Oi'll make yez as good a cook as the nixt wan."

"I don't know anything about the next one, but you'll have to be better than the last one."—Houston Post.

Social Axiom.

"I think I will invite the Bronsons. I know they would be glad to come."

"But, my dear, people who would be glad to come are the very ones you should not invite."—Puck.

Sweet Girl.

Gerald—As it is to be a secret engagement it would not be wise for me to give you a ring at present. Geraldine—Oh, but I could wear it on the wrong hand.

ELECTRIC BAIT FOR FISH.

The New York Aquarium's Supply and Where It Is Captured.

The New York aquarium, which is the largest and best equipped institution of its kind in the world, obtains its supplies of tropical fishes from the waters of Bermuda. Some of the rarest and most beautiful species are exceedingly hard to catch, persistently refusing to take a bait, and on this account it has been found necessary to resort to a very novel and ingenious expedient to effect their capture, an electrical contrivance which serves to stun the coveted specimen and reduce it to helplessness until it can be made a prisoner.

The device in question consists in part of a small and compact storage battery which is held in a leather pouch beneath the arm of the operator, who wades as quietly as possible through the shallows and invades, with as little disturbance as may be, pools among the rocks. He carries a long handled dip net, to the handle of which a wire is attached. On the end of the wire is fastened a small percussion cap of the kind used for exploding dynamite cartridges. It is the bursting of the cap that is relied upon to stun the fish.

Luckly for the hunter fishes have as much curiosity as land animals, and even the shiest one will approach a bait to look at it, though indisposed to attempt the slightest nibble. Accordingly the percussion cap at the end of the wire is concealed either by something eatable or by a bunch of grass wrapper around it. Mr. Fish wonders what it is, ventures near and has instant reason to regret his imprudence. The fisherman closes the circuit, the percussion cap is exploded, and the victim is rendered for the moment lifeless, though receiving no permanent injury. Promptly, by reversing the dip net, he is gathered in, and a few days later he finds himself swimming about in a tank.

The fishes from Bermuda are carried to New York on steamers, of course, and it is a curious fact that during the first twenty-four hours of the voyage they are liable to become quite seasick.—Saturday Evening Post.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Some men work just enough to keep dirty.

Every one wants always to be able to work, but not always to have to.

If you don't like certain persons, how you hate to hear their money rattle!

Here is one sign that you are talking too much—when your listener tries to pull away from you.

After a man passes fifty it is impossible for him to get up any enthusiasm about anything but his troubles.

Ever notice how the big flies avoid fly paper? It is the same with the really big men. They are seldom caught.

You can follow directions in making a cake or cutting out a shirt, but there are no directions that can be followed successfully in managing a man. Somehow he is not like a cake or a shirt.—Atchison Globe.

Helping Him Out.

For years Squire Latham, of whom many amusing stories are told, was a resident of Bridgewater, Mass., and it was while he was living there that the incident occurred which is related below. It illustrates his habitual coolness and whimsical temper:

He was awakened one night by his wife, who told him she thought there were burglars in the house. The squire put on his dressing gown and went downstairs. In the back hall he found a rough looking man trying to open a door that led into the back yard.

The burglar had unlocked the door and was pulling it with all his might.

"It don't open that way, you idiot!" shouted the squire, taking in the man's predicament instantly. "It slides back!"

How Tortoise Shell Is Worked.

The soldering of two pieces of tortoise shell together is effected by means of hot pinchers, which, while they compress, soften the opposed edge of each piece and amalgamate them into one. Even the raspings and powder produced by the file, mixed with small fragments, are put into molds and subjected to the action of boiling water and thus made into plates of the desired thickness or into various articles which appear to have been cut out of a solid block.

Early Timekeepers.

The clepsydra, or water clock, was used at Babylon at a very early date and was introduced at Rome by Scipio Nasica about the year 158 B. C. Toothed wheels were added to it by Ctesibius about 140 B. C. Some writers aver that they were found to be in use in Britain by Caesar in the year 55 B. C. The only clock in the world is said to have been sent by Pope Paul I. to Pepin, king of France, in the year A. D.

Hair Raising.

Husband—I feel in the mood for reading something sensational and startling—something that will fairly make my hair stand on end. Wife—Well, here is my last dressmaker's bill.—Washington Life.

Many Meanings.

Traveler—Some expressions in the Chinese language have as many as forty different meanings.

Little Miss—Same way in English.

"You amaze me. Mention one."

"Not at home."

His Regret.

Blobbs—Buggins' wife says he is a model husband. Slobbs—Yes, and he used to be such a good fellow too.—Philadelphia Record.

Commissioners' Proceedings.

McCook, Neb., August 18, 1905.

The board of county commissioners met pursuant to adjournment. Present: D. A. Waterman, Samuel Premer and J. H. Bennett, county commissioners, C. E. Eldred, county attorney, and E. J. Wilcox, county clerk.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

In the matter of the application of the Red Willow County Agricultural Society asking for an appropriation in aid of said society laid over from last meeting, the board on further consideration finds that the said Agricultural society has complied with requirements necessary to entitle them to aid from the county in the sum of $307.80. On motion same was granted and clerk instructed to draw a warrant on the county general fund of said county for $307.80 in favor of the president of said society.

On motion the board appropriated $50 from the county general fund, for the purpose of making an exhibit for Red Willow county at the state fair held at Lincoln the week of September 4th.

The following claims were audited and allowed and clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the county general fund in payment thereof as follows:

Smith & Cochran, mdse. for paupers	$ 15 90
N. J. Uerling, same	33 55
A. Guy, same	9 00
L. W. McConnell, stationery	5 52
McCook Tribune, same	52 55
F. M. Kimmell, printing	34 35
W. T. Coleman, mdse	6 00
H. P. Sutton, cleaning adder	1 25
American Arithmetic Co., ribbon	1 00
Remington Typewriter Co., cyclinder	1 50
R. W. Devoe, office expense	1 80
J. E. Cobbey, supplements for 1905	4 00
D. A. Waterman, services as commissioner	30 45
Samuel Premer, same	22 05
J. H. Bennett, same	33 30

And on the county bridge fund levy of 1905 as follows:

W. H. Meyers, bridge work	7 00
George Teeters, same	6 00
Jackscn Teeters, same	10 50
Jackson Teeters, same	12 00
Samuel Bryan, same	9 00
Harry Poole, same	6 00
Charles Ryden, same	6 00
Berth Young, same	3 00
August Ryden, same	11 50
Ed. Cox, same	7 00
J. C. Sedden, same	1 50
Malen Campbell, same	50
John Jones, same	9 40
W. S. Fitch, same	4 00

And on the county road fund levy of 1905 as follows:

Malen Campbell, road work	4 50
R. O. Harrison, same	6 00
Geo. Harrison, same	1 50
A. T. Wilson, same	6 00
Frank Wilson, same	4 00
G. O. Longnecker, same	3 00
W. B. Sexson, same	3 00
I. H. Harrison, same	4 00
Ted Cain, same	30 00
Frank Cain, same	42 00

On motion board adjourned to meet September 19, 1905. D. A. Waterman, Chairman.

Attest: E. J. Wilcox, County Clerk.

Real Estate Filings.

The following real estate filings have been made in the county clerk's office since last Thursday evening:

R. Funson to J. V. Harrison wd to ne qr 29-2-27	$ 1,600 00
Lincoln Land Co. to School District No. 28 wd to blk 4, 1st Danbury	450 00
W. McCallum to J. Cosgro wd to lots 4, 5 and 6, blk 31, Indianola	100 00
Lincoln Land Co. to H. Burgess lot 9, blk 8, Lebanon	75 00
J. Lesser to R. T. Highland lot 1, blk 25, McCook	1,000 00
M. C. Shurtleff to J. F. Cordeal wd to ne qr and ne hf s hf 18-2-30	1,650 00
Anna E. Mather to J. W. McClung wd to s hf 2-3-28	5,000 00
Mary E. Zimmer to Eliza J. Spencer wd to n hf 31-4-27	8,000 00
W. Pike to J. W. Arbogast wd to nw qr 17-4-26	1,600 00
J. Schouerman to H. Amen wd to pt se qr se qr 30-3-29	300 00
H. Amen to C. Breuning wd to pt se qr se qr 30-3-29	355 00
S. Robertson to R. Moore wd to sw qr 24-4-30	1,000 00
C. A. Stone to I. M. Smith, etal wd to e hf e hf 18-2-2	
H. K. Bixler to Margaret Baxter wd to lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, blk 24, lot 3 blk 25-3-29	1,179 00
J. V. Harrison to J. W. Dolan wd to ne qr 29-2-27	2,000 00
R. Simpson to J. F. Cordeal wd to e hf nw qr and e hf sw qr 29-2-30	600 00
Western Land Co. to H. C. Sanders qcd to e hf ne qr and e hf se qr 19-2-28	57 00
United States to C. Bee pat to ne qr 17-4-26	

Opening Uintah Indian Reservation.

The Uintah Indiah Reservation will be thrown open for settlement on August 28th. Registration will commence, August 1st, at Grand Junction, Colo., Vernal, Price and Provo, Utah, closing August 12th. Reduced rates granted. Call for particulars. George S. Scott Agent.

The mills of the Gods grind slowly, but never grind finer—flour than Doan's mills produce.

DREADFUL DREAMS.

They Shock the Nervous System and May Even Cause Death.

People have actually been killed by dreams. Most persons have suffered from those terrible nightmare visions in which the victim is pursued by an assassin with upraised knife or is trembling on the edge of a fearful precipice or is in some other imminent danger of a sudden and terrible death. These dreams are common enough, and nearly always the sufferer awakes, thankful and happy at his escape. But sometimes he doesn't awake. Sometimes the knife falls or the sleeper in his hallucinations plunges down the precipice. These are the dreams that kill, says the Chicago Tribune.

In cases where dreams kill there is a sort of combined action between the dream and the disease through which death is accomplished. In the first place the dream is usually the product of the disease. A person may have heart disease which never asserts itself or allows the victim in any way to know of its presence until the fact is disclosed in a frightful dream. Moreover, terrifying dreams are often the first evidence of heart disease. Then the frequent recurrence of these dreams, dealing repeated shocks to the nervous system, aggravates the disease until the heart is so weak that one more shock is sufficient to cause death.

If a person has had dreams it does not necessarily follow, however, that he has heart disease. Dreams indicating heart disease are usually of a terrifying nature and relate to death. On awakening the sufferer will notice a violent heart palpitation. Chronic pericarditis is always preceded by horrible dreams, such as that of being thrown into a lake of fire or being crushed in a railroad wreck or burned by a volcanic eruption.

The approach of insanity may also be revealed by unpleasant dreams, or insanity may be hastened by such dreams. There are many cases on record where a person has been driven insane by a dream.

AN INDIAN LEGEND.

How the Autumn Leaves Were Transformed Into Birds.

An Indian story that has been handed down and is still believed by many Indian tribes is one about the transformation of leaves into birds. Long years ago, when the world was young, the Great Spirit went about the earth making it beautiful. Wherever his feet touched the ground lovely trees and flowers sprang up. All summer the trees wore their short green dresses. The leaves were very happy, and they sang their sweet songs to the breeze as it passed them. One day the wind told them the time would soon come when they would have to fall from the trees and die. This made the leaves feel very bad, but they tried to be bright and do the best they could so as not to make the mother trees unhappy. But at last the time came, and they let go of the twigs and branches and fluttered to the ground. They lay perfectly quiet, not able to move except as the wind would lift them.

The Great Spirit saw them and thought they were so lovely that he did not want to see them die, but live and be beautiful forever, so he gave to each bright leaf a pair of wings and power to fly. Then he called them his "birds." From the red and brown leaves of the oak came the robins, and yellow birds from the yellow willow leaves, and from bright maple leaves he made the red birds. The brown leaves became wrens, sparrows and other brown birds. This is why the birds love the trees and always go to them to build their nests and look for food and shade.—Kansas City Journal.

The Best Building Ground.

The most healthy ground on which to build a residence is one composed of clean gravel free from clay and effete organic matter and having a porous substratum. The advantages of such a soil are free ventilation and drainage and a low level of ground water, all essential qualities for a dry and salubrious situation. A soil composed of permeable sandstone and chalk formation is also good. Rocky and stony situations are usually healthy. Sandy soils may be considered salubrious provided they are clear and pure and not water bound by an impermeable foundation. Clay and alluvial soils are generally unhealthy.

Behavior.

You cannot rightly train one to an air and manner except by making him the kind of man of whom that air is the natural expression. Nature forever puts a premium on reality. What is done for effect is seen to be done for effect; what is done for love is felt to be done for love. A man inspires affection and honor because he was not lying in wait for these. The things of a man for which we visit him were done in the dark and the cold.—From Emerson's Essay on "Behavior."

"Going," East and West.

"I tell you what," said Gotham, entertaining his western cousin, "everything's so high here it's almost impossible to keep a house going."

"Well," replied the Kansan, "the winds are so high out our way it's almost impossible to keep a house from going."—Philadelphia Press.

Nearly as Good.

"Did you succeed in breaking your grandfather's will?"

"No, but we managed to bend it so that a few more thousand dollars oozed out of the family tree."—Detroit Free Press.

Sharp tongues, like sharp knives, are apt to do a great deal of damage in this world.—Austin Statesman.