

To Omar.

Omar Khayyam, you're a jolly old Aryan,
Half sybaritic, and semi-barbarian,
Not a bit mystic, but utilitarian,
Fond of a posy and fond of a dram.
Symbolist, poet and clear-eyed philosopher,
Had you a wife I am sure you were boss of
her,
Yet you'd be ruled by the coquettish toss of
her
Gariand-crowned head at you, Omar Khay-
yam.
For there is vanity
In your humanity,
Else your urbanity
Were but a flam.
And the severity
Of your austerity
Proves your sincerity,
Omar Khayyam.
Well I remember when first you were
heralded,
Persian-born poesy ably Fitzgeralded;
Impulse said buy you—and I to my peril
did:
Now a meek slave of your genius I am.
Some of your doctrines to us may seem
hatable,
Though we admit that the themes are de-
batable;
But your ideas, are they really translatable
Into our languages, Omar Khayyam?
In your society
All inebriety
Seems but propriety,
Truth but a sham;
And the reality
Of your carnality
Courts immortality,
Omar Khayyam
From the grave depths of your massive
tranquility
Thoughts you produce, knowing well their
fertility,
Thoughts that you phrase with a fatal fa-
cility,
Hurl with the force of a battering ram!
But we care not though your message be
cynical,
Not very creedal and scarcely rabbinical;
We, your adorers, put you on a pinnacle,
For that we love you, old Omar Khayyam.
Though you're erroneous,
Still you're harmonious,
And you're euphonious
In epigram.
O'er the censorious
You are victorious;
We hold you glorious,
Omar Khayyam.

—Carolyn Wells in February Century.

"The Soap-Bubblers."

Some extraordinary performances are described in the February St. Nicholas in Meredith Nugent's article on "The Soap-Bubblers' First Reception." Never shall I forget the fairy like

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transformation which followed the signal for all bubblers to begin "bubbling." The magician's wand had hardly fallen when there arose forty-seven large bubbles from forty seven large cornucopias, held in the hands of forty-seven rosy-cheeked boys and girls standing by twenty-four little oblong tables. A cry of delight swept around the hall, and forty-seven more bubbles arose, and still another shower of the iridescent spheres glittered in the surrounding brilliancy before the bubblers settled down to the business of the evening.

After a few words explanatory of the evolution of the soap-bubble from the clay pipe stage to its present one, Phil dipped a wire ring into the solution, and gently sweeping it before him, cast off a bubble fully twice the size of his head. Every bubbler boy gave a cry of satisfaction at this, and it looked as though all the bubblers might fling their golden cornucopias on the stage, when the master of the soap and water tossed off five large bubbles in succession, not only from the same ring, but from the same film! Almost immediately Phil's assistants—there were five of them—followed his example, and from that time on the stage was continually aglow with the brilliant spheres.

Harry Baker now came forward with the club's two kittens and set them on a dry block of wood resting in the center of one of the large nine foot pans—now filled with soapy water. Before the animals could move, Phil quickly lifted a hoop from the pan, and in a twinkling covered both kittens over with a glorious bubble. "First kittens ever inside a soap bubble!" Harry Baker announced just as the little kits started to wade about in the iridescent dome. Phil sphered them over a second and even a third time, when the pussies, excited by

their uproarious surroundings, offered decided objections to being imprisoned any more.

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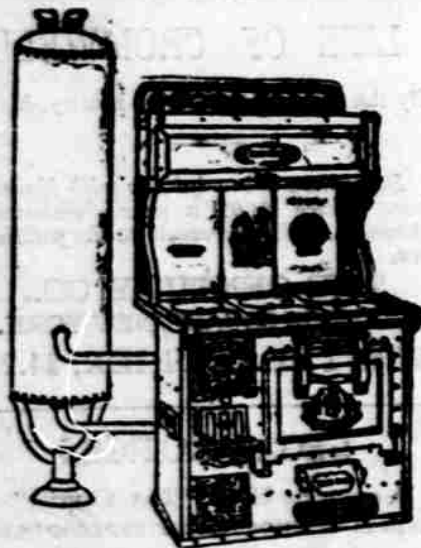
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