

Science Notes

BY WILLIAM G. HAYNES.

BANANAS AS FOOD

Nature has always been doing what man has only recently attempted—that is, delivering many of its eatables in sterile or germ-proof packages. The best instance of this is the banana, a fruit that is only beginning to be recognized in this country at its true value.

Many experiments have been made with the skin of the banana by bacteriologists, and they have found the skin practically impregnable to germs. Furthermore, the inner pulp of the skin is germ-proof or sterile. Bananas have even been placed in liquids containing cultures of known organisms, and yet none of these were able to penetrate into the fruit itself.

Every one knows how the edible portion of the banana is packed away in a close-fitting covering which very seldom cracks open, even when dead ripe. This skin not only protects the fruit from the atmosphere and various insects and from bruising to a considerable degree, but it keeps out all germs.

Dr. F. M. Bailey has made various bacteriological examinations of bananas at different stages of their ripening, and he declares that the inner pulp of ripe bananas is practically sterile. The probability of infection from bananas is indeed slight. Care should be taken to have the peel of the banana clean, as anything on the outside might be transferred to the hands and thence to the fruit, and so to the mouth, but with the care taken there is no danger. It is probably one of the cleanest of fruits.—Pure Milk.

"THE REALIZATION OF A NEGRO'S AMBITIONS"

By Dan Desdunes.

Director 1st Regimental Band, K. r.

On Monday, July 24th, 1916, there appeared in our city a colored movie picture. It was produced at the Alhambra theatre on 24th near Parker. Despite the excessive heat, the patronage was all that could be expected. As I have heard the house was packed at each show.

I am proud of the fact that my people showed so much interest in what is destined to be a new era in Negro advancement.

The movies have made such great strides in the last few years that we

as a people would indeed be very backward if we didn't attempt to keep up with the parade.

Now that we are in the band wagon let's not toot our horns but first see what we have done.

That was the first picture done in the legitimate, that I have ever seen. (Of course, done by a company of Negro actors.)

"The Realization of a Negro's Ambitions" offered some points that might cause some difference of opinion. That is to be expected in all lines of endeavor. After you read what I have written you may draw your own conclusions, as you have a perfect right to do so.

Mr. Noble M. Johnson proved that he is not of a faint heart, his exhibition of riding a horse in a wild chase, then to dismount going at full speed, ranks with any daring that I have ever seen. He is a man with a pleasing personality. He played his part throughout with force and dignity. As I understand it, he also wrote the play.

His leading lady rose to the requirement of a very difficult part inasmuch as she was required to run the gamut of emotions. She is good to look upon and graceful in her demeanor. She will always be a welcome visitor.

The Old Man was great as a comedian. He created laughter by simple facial expressions that were clean and not over-drawn. It takes an artist to perform that trick.

He is so clever that it wouldn't surprise me to see him fill the place on the screen that Bert Williams is filling on the stage. Who knows?

All of the other characters were well acted.

Experience will wear off some of the rough edges that it would be unfair to mention at this time.

Suffice to say that we are in the parade, let us march on and on to attain that goal that all the human race is aspiring for—success.

HUMAN FLY THRILLS MARYSVILLE

Paul Smith, a Colored youth, thrilled the people of Marysville, Mo., last week by his daring exhibition of high building climbing which places him among the new and rare species called "the human fly." Smith reached the top of a three-story brick building by climbing up the corner without the help of windows or ropes. He wore ordinary shoes. The feat was the more remarkable inasmuch as he not only went up the building, but came down. An immense crowd witnessed his daring performance.

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