

## Science Notes

BY WILLIAM G. HAYNES.

### HAVE YOU TRIED NO. 1?

The following very interesting questions and answers are clipped from the Scientific American. The first experiment would probably make an excellent qualifying test for prospective Christian Science converts.

1. A vessel of boiling water may be removed from the stove, while boiling, and set on the palm of the hand, and retained without discomfort so long as the water continues to boil. Where does the cold come from to cool the metal bottom of the vessel while boiling? 2. A cat may be suspended by the legs, in the air, a few inches from the floor (say six inches, and when released, in this short space, will turn over and strike on her feet. Where does she find the leverage to shift the center of gravity, so as to turn her body over in this short space? A. 1. The explanation of the fact that a kettle of boiling water may be placed on the palm of the hand without discomfort is this: The heat necessary to keep the water boiling comes from the iron of the kettle and thus the iron is cooled, so long as the water boils. The sensation of cold arises from the taking of heat out of the hand by the iron. It is a good conductor of heat and so gives its heat to boil the water and becomes cooler to the hand. When the water no longer boils then the iron becomes too hot for the hand to endure it. 2. The turning of a cat in midair has been a puzzle to scientific men. Pictures of its falling were made by the National Academy of France by cameras before the days of the moving picture camera, which showed the cat in different positions during its fall. These showed wide changes in the position of its body, especially in the humping of its back, the movement of head and legs and the switching of its tail. All these actions doubtless produce the rotation. The remarkable features of it all is the wonderful rapidity with which the mind of the animal must work to direct these motions.

### THE HEART OF THE ATHLETE.

At a meeting of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, Dr. Robert N. Wilson of Philadelphia said that two vital questions involved in college and schoolboy competitive athletics were: (1) The ultimate (post-graduation) result of public competitive athletics upon the health and lives of the participants; (2) the possibility of determining the genuine physical integrity of the proposed participant or his lack of the same, especially with respect to his heart. Reference was made to the many deaths in recent years among former athletes. He knew of no instance of recovery from a major infectious disease in an athlete, except in the typhoid epidemic at Easton, where a number of undergraduates—probably not then shorn of their resisting forces—had made a successful fight and recovered. It was to be remembered that the normal heart would not tolerate repeated insults without loss of recuperative power. Latent athletic injuries would seem to explain the tendency of the strong and robust to die when the less powerful won out against infectious disease. A still more radical evil was the encouragement offered by college and university to the schoolboy to

emulate his college brother in competitive athletics. Dr. Wilson said that he stopped short of advising against active competition as the Germans had, but pointed rather to signboards written in bold letters. Trainers should be taught the meaning of the collapse of today in the future of the athlete. He believed that some day college authorities must of necessity conclude that no form of athletic event was sane which demanded of the participants the semiconscious state of heart exhaustion at its conclusion.—Scientific American Supplement.

### HEALTH PRECAUTIONS IN LAUNDRIES.

The washing of garments in large public institutions, where the soiled linen of a thousand families is mixed together, is a comparatively new thing in our civilization and demands precautions that were unnecessary when washing-day was a purely domestic holiday. The operation of washing, to be sure, is in itself a sterilizing process, and investigation has shown that there is little or no danger from this source, but washing is not the only incident of laundry-work, and there remain dangers of infective communication that can not be overlooked. Says an editorial writer in The Journal of the American Medical Association (Chicago):

"The high temperature, soap, washing-soda, and other chemicals to which clothes in the laundry are subjected in the washing process are responsible for a sterilizing action. Bacteriologic examinations have repeatedly demonstrated that it is effective. Dr. Dederer, who represents the Committee on Occupational Diseases of the woman's department of the National Civic Federation, frankly states that there is no danger to public health from 'mixed washing' of clothing with contaminated articles. It is pointed out, however, that while the washing process practically sterilizes the clothes, the reinfection of clean linen is possible when it is sorted and counted in the same room with soiled linen. Clean linen, when exposed to infection through contact with soiled linen, may disseminate infection. The upshot of this is that soiled linen ought not to be received, sorted, or marked in rooms in which clean linen is kept. Eating and drinking should be prohibited in rooms in which soiled linen is manipulated, and laundry-workers should be instructed concerning the latent hygienic dangers which they may encounter in their work. Sanitary measures involving personal hygiene are essential for their own welfare as well as that of the public served. The problems involved have never received any serious attention from public authorities in this country; but the rapid growth of the laundry-business is certain to awaken interest in them, as it has been aroused in the case of public restaurants, bakeries, food-shops, and other institutions which are assuming household functions."—Literary Digest.

### WASTE NEWSPAPERS AS A FUEL FOR MILITARY CAMPS.

Italy has aptly and inexpensively solved the problem of supplying her soldiers, who are campaigning in the mountains where dry wood is scarce, with suitable fuel for their camp fires. In all the leading cities of Italy there have been organized bands of boys and girls who go about collecting all the discarded newspapers they can find. These are brought to establishments where other boys and girls convert the sheets of paper into

solid rods of fuel, under the direction of women teachers. These are then cut into short lengths and packed in individual bags for distribution among the soldiers in the mountains.

It is said that the compressed paper fuel is not only entirely satisfactory for the purpose intended, but also most convenient. Should a soldier desire a little hot soup or coffee he only requires three or four pieces of this unique fuel to heat the food. Lightness is another consideration in favor of the improvised fuel, especially in the mountains where weight is a paramount factor.—Scientific American.

### DEMOCRATIC MAYOR RAPS LOUISVILLE "JIM CROW" BILL.

(Continued from first page.)

wire possible. The first man to speak out was the Mayor. They did not stop there. "Marse" Henry Watterson who was at his winter quarters at Palm Beach, Fla., was reached, and the Colonel grasped the situation immediately. He has always been known to be fair and just in his editorial columns.

### Women Play Their Part.

The women of the race have been playing their part to keep the law from being passed. Those who work out in service are doing the work. In most families of this city, race women are in service. They have the ear of big business men's wives who in turn have spoken to their husbands to use their influence on the legislatures of this city to vote against the bill. These women have taken such a keen interest in opposition to the bill that white people have become stirred as never before to help them. Letters have been written to other members of the Legislature to vote against the bill. So many look upon the bill as a "bugaboo." It is said that if it passes it will be a means of delivering the vote of the race into the hands of the Republican Party. Naturally this will effect the independent vote and the Democratic party will be the sufferer. This is one city where race men have divided their vote and the division has been a means of both parties making a bid for the votes of the race. Public opinion, however, has risen higher; mere politics and the press of the city are opposing the bill on the question of fair play, and on the ground that Louisville does not want nor need such a bill passed; there is no reason for it and therefore it should not become a law. The press of the city wants it known that it is not the desire of the citizens of this city to have such a law, but just a personal desire of Mr. Knight. Some say that he wants to ride into popularity with his foot upon the necks of the members of the race—that he wants to be another Vardaman or Hoke Smith, but Henry Watterson says as long as he lives no such characters shall disgrace the fair name of Kentucky. The last time Col. Watterson spoke in public before a mixed audience, he said, after being introduced by the Rev. C. H. Parrish, "I want children of your race to have the same educational opportunities as my own children." Today he is saying through his paper, he wants his and other men's children to sit side by side in a street car and not that they should be put off to a side like sheep. It is reported here that the bill will fail because of such strong opposition.

"Is Alice musical?"

"No, but she always sings if you ask her."—Boston Transcript.

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