

Disposition of Dead Has Wide Variation

Ceremonies associated with the various methods of disposing of dead the world over are as interesting as they are varied.

Modern nations as well as many primitive and oriental peoples practice inhumation, and with it their many and peculiar rites. But, as in bygone days, funeral ceremonies of today are most sacred and impressive occasions.

Cremation or the burning of dead bodies to ashes, is now practiced to a small extent in several countries, but is by no means new, says the Pathfinder Magazine. At the beginning of the Christian era cremation was the prevailing custom of the civilized world, with the exception of Egypt, where the dead were embalmed; Judea, where they were entombed in a sepulcher, and China, where they were buried in the earth. Christian inhumation, which is now universal, probably owes its origin to the doctrine of resurrection of the body. While cremation was practiced by the later Greeks, Romans, Danes, and others, the first cremation societies were not formed until the Nineteenth century. This method of disposing of human bodies is now urged by some health authorities on sanitary grounds.

Love and Youth Can Always "Find a Way"

Will love find a way? asks the Boston Globe, which then goes on to tell this: The observer had missed his train and was forced to wait an hour for the next. As he walked through the crowd of passengers from an incoming train he noticed the warmth of embrace of a young man and his girl friend. Apparently she was welcoming him home from a long trip. Ten minutes later he saw them in a strange hold as a train emptied its passengers at another gate. As the crowd dispersed, they parted. The boy friend was trailed to the waiting room, where he met the girl, greeted her sans embrace, and sat down for a chat again. As another train was announced, they again departed. The youth mingled with the incoming crowd and the girl ran up to meet him. To the ordinary onlooker it was a fond welcome home, but to the observer it was an ingenious system of getting in public. Love will find a way.

Concerning "Tightwads"

You are a tightwad, says a government budget expert, if your living expenses are 37 per cent of your income, your savings 60 per cent and the remaining 3 per cent scattered among recreation, education and philanthropy. You are a spendthrift if your living expenses are 58 per cent, your savings zero, your recreation 40 per cent. You are thrifty if your living expenses are 50 per cent, your savings 20 per cent, education, giving and recreation 10 per cent.

It's a pleasure to meet a budget maker who emphasizes some necessities of human living besides savings only, and who will not give the palm to the fellow who saves the most.—Kansas City Times.

First "Weather-Glass"

The first mercurial barometer was constructed chiefly for the purpose of demonstrating the fact that air has weight, says Nature Magazine. Later this instrument acquired a great reputation as a means of predicting weather and was nicknamed the "weather-glass." Though its prophetic powers are not now rated so high as formerly, it remains the most important of meteorological instruments. The column of mercury in the barometer rises and falls with changes of atmospheric pressure, and its length is measured by means of an attachment called a "vernier," with a much greater refinement of accuracy than is that of the column of mercury or alcohol in a thermometer.

Naval Range Finder

An accurate method of computing the distance between ships when the height of the enemy ship is not known is by the use of the optical range finder. This instrument is installed in the turrets of battleships. It consists of a long tube with optical prisms. The length of the tube is taken as the base of a triangle. The distance is then figured out mathematically. The degree of accuracy depends upon the visibility conditions and the distance can usually be ascertained within a few hundred yards of the exact distance.

Progress in Lighting

A common laborer of today works about ten minutes each day to pay for the lighting of his home by means of electricity. A half-century ago he would have had to work two and one-half hours to provide the same amount of light by means of gas flames. And if he had supplied himself a half-century ago with the same amount of light from candles he would have had to work 24 hours every day to pay his lighting bill. For this great reduction in the cost of artificial lighting, modern science is responsible.—Scientific American.

Make Sure You're Right

First be sure—that you are right, then go ahead. But be sure that you are right. More than one man has made the mistake of bugging a delusion under the impression that he was embracing an opportunity.—Grit.

Set Training Tables for Fighting Crickets

The sporting element in China has been training fighting crickets for hundreds of years. Huge sums are still bet on cricket fights and the owners of champion crickets are nationally known. In his booklet, "Cricket Champions of China," Dr. Berthold Laufer, famous sinologist of the Field Museum of Natural History, discloses the interesting methods used by the Chinese in training these scrapping insects. Even in ancient times the trainers prescribed strict diets for their battlers. The usual diet consist of a dish of rice mixed with fresh cucumbers, boiled chestnuts, lotus seeds and mosquitoes. Some of the owners and fanciers allow themselves to be bitten by mosquitoes, and when the mosquitoes are full of blood they are given to their favorite crickets.

The fighting crickets are kept in specially devised jars, which are made to serve as both summer and winter homes. The jars are furnished with tiny beds and water jars. The champion crickets are transported in finely wrought cages, some of which are filigree gold.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Now Cast Doubt on Myles Standish Tale

Capt. Myles Standish may have asked John Alden to propose to Priscilla Mullens for him, as Longfellow wrote (there is historical doubt on the point), but despite the means he may have taken the redoubtable soldier was married twice and left many children.

Proof of this has been found through twenty-one years' record searching by Dr. Myles Standish of Boston, eighth lineal descendant of the soldier.

"The legend about which Longfellow wrote 'The Courtship of Miles Standish' is not very convincing," said Doctor Standish. "Before coming to America, Captain Standish was in Holland and there he married his first wife, Rose. Rose died the first winter in America. Later the soldier married Barbara, who is said to have been a first cousin of Rose. They had several children. It is between the death of Rose and his marriage to Barbara that the captain is supposed to have courted Priscilla. It is a pretty story."—Miami Daily News.

Brotherly Love

A large crowd was waiting breathlessly on the beach. In the distance a small black object could be seen bobbing up and down on the crest of the waves. It was a bottle—and inside was a message!

A party of brave men ventured out in a row boat to see what tragic news it contained. After some difficulty the bottle was picked up and brought back to shore. With shaking fingers the leader of the party pulled out the message.

"The finder of this bottle," he read, "might please send it to my brother in Aberdeen and tell him to take it to the Pig and Whistle. There is 'twopence on it."—London Answers.

Too Much Pep

Norma, age seven, was visiting her grandma, and they were telling jokes. Grandma told Norma the one about the boy who went to the grocery and bought some pepper for his mother, and when he arrived home and opened the package he found the pepper was half peas (p's).

Norma was quiet for a few moments, and then she said: "Grandma, here is one for you:

"A little boy went to the store to buy some pepper for his mother, and when he came home and opened it he found it was half pep."

Appropriately Named

Little Rock, Ark., was named from a rocky promontory which rises on the south bank of the Arkansas river some 50 feet above the river and now used as one of the abutments of one of the four bridges which span the river. This rock is the first seen ascending the river, and was called "Little Rock" in contradistinction to the bold precipice about ten times higher which rises some three miles above upon the opposite bank and is called "Big Rock." This is now the site of an army post.

Movie Star

Five-year-old Ethel had never attended a picture show, but had heard her brothers and sisters talk a great deal about the "movie stars." One evening Ethel was out riding with her parents after dark. It was a new experience to Ethel to be out driving late enough to see the stars, and she was very much interested in watching them. One bright star in particular attracted her attention, and as the machine moved Ethel thought the star was moving and said, "Mamma, that must be a movie star."

One Thing Missing

Mrs. Newlywed rushed in from the kitchen, a smoking pie dish in her hands. She placed it on the table in front of her husband.

"There, dear," she cooed, "that's a cottage pie."

"I'd have known it was cottage pie," he remarked after the first few mouthfuls.

"You would?" she asked, delighted.

"Yes," he replied. "I can taste the thatched roof and the crazy paving. But what did you do with the bricks?"

UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASING; WHITES REPLACE NEGROES

New York, N. Y.—The National Urban league through its department of industrial relations of which T. Arnold Hill is director, reports as follows on unemployment for the month of February:

"Unemployment is not merely bad for Negroes; it is critical. From all parts of the country reports for February showed conditions growing worse. Not only are colored men and women not being employed, but they are being replaced by white workers. This substitution is going on in the south as well as in the north; even though the jobs taken are menial and of the type that are customarily regarded Negro jobs only.

"The policy of not working white and colored employees together means that today not one or several Negroes lose their jobs to white workers, but that whole shifts and entire crews of colored workers are being sacrificed to make places for white people. One city is reported to have adopted the slogan, 'No Negro must have a job any white man wants.'" Little Rock, Ark., illustrates this. There, two hotels turned off its bellmen and waiters; also a railroad dismissed approximately 100 shop employees; Chicago reported several instances of replacement during February.

"So similar are the reports of unemployment throughout the country that it is not necessary to record the cities separately. Buffalo, with 200 families being cared for by the city, is among those feeling the situation most. Detroit appears to be suffering less from unemployment than any of the cities sending in reports. This is due to the revival of the automobile industry. Most of the colored men are being hired at the Ford plants. A loop clothing firm in Chicago hired eight salesmen who were trained by the company for the position. Six other men are in training. The St. Louis Urban league was asked to engage 25 women elevator operators. The firm has stipulated that they must be from 'five feet, eight inches to six feet tall.'"

INSURANCE COMPANY WILL DEDICATE NEW OFFICE BUILDING

Supreme Life and Casualty Company to Mark an Epoch in Economic and Social Life of the Race

Columbus, Ohio—The Supreme Life and Casualty company of this city announces the dedication and formal opening of its new branch office building in the city of Cincinnati, Saturday and Sunday, April 7th and 8th.

The building being the first of its kind erected by our group in Cincinnati, is creating widespread interest, and its dedication will be featured by elaborate ceremonies.

It is located on one of the principal thoroughfares of the city, on West Ninth street, a national highway; is constructed of Indiana limestone, concrete and reinforced steel, and modern in every detail.

It comprises 21 handsomely equipped suites, a double storeroom and auditorium, designed and constructed by an architect and builder of our group, Samuel Plato, with fully 95 per cent of the entire work done by artisans and laborers of our race.

The principal exercises will take place at the building Easter Sunday at 3 p. m., at which time dedicatory addresses will be delivered by Robert L. Vann, attorney and editor of The Pittsburgh Courier; Jane Hunter, executive secretary of the Phyllis Wheatley association of Cleveland; Ray E. Hughes, assistant prosecuting attorney of Franklin county, and others.

It is truly an epoch in the economic and social life of our group in this city.

URBAN LEAGUE MEETING

At a mass meeting held Sunday afternoon April 8 at St. John's A. M. E. church in the interest of the Omaha branch of the Urban league, addresses were delivered by George W. Thompson of Akron, Ohio; T. Arnold Hill of New York; John F. Hall, secretary of the Omaha Community Chest; C. A. Cushman, vice-president; Henry Monsky of the board of governors of the Community Chest; Dr. H. von Shulte, president of the Council of Social Agencies; Dr. J. H. Hutten, vice-president, presided. Additional members were secured, bringing the membership to about 400. The goal set for memberships is 500. Mr. Thompson, who has been executive secretary of the Akron league for several years, has accepted the same position for the Omaha league and will return to take charge here early in May.

NEGRO SINGERS, LAYTON AND JOHNSTONE, GIVEN OVATION IN PARIS

New York City—Clippings received from France by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth avenue, record an overwhelming success achieved at the Empire, one of the leading music halls in Paris, by two colored singers, Layton and Johnstone.

Jacques Patin, writing in the Figaro, one of the leading Paris dailies, says in part:

"The singers Layton and Johnstone are admirable artists, and it is a joy to hear them . . . A triumphal success was achieved by these greatly talented artists."

Gustav Frejaville, the critic of Comedie says that Layton and Johnstone made all Paris rush to the Empire. "The first evening," he continues, "the public gave them a wild reception; curtain call after curtain call, ovations, effusions shouted from the audience to the stage . . . Layton and Johnstone are highly sympathetic artists, who show a touching earnestness and perfect good grace in satisfying the desires of a public carried away by its pleasure."

Louis Leon-Martin, writing in Paris-Midi, declared he owed to Layton and Johnstone "perhaps the most deliciously persuasive moments he had ever spent in a music hall." He concludes his enthusiastic review by calling them great artists.

An equally laudatory notice appeared in La Volonte, signed by Legend-Chabrier.

HARMON AWARDS GIVEN School Man and Rosenwald Aided in Negro Problem

Washington, D. C.—James H. Dillard of Charlottesville, Fla., and Julius Rosenwald of Chicago are the recipients of the Harmon awards for outstanding contributions in 1927 towards improving relations between white people and Negroes.

The commission on race relations of the Federal Council of Churches presented the wards recently at First Congregational church.

Dr. Dillard, a well-known educator, received a gold medal and five hundred dollars. He is rector of the board of visitors of William and Mary.

Mr. Rosenwald, chairman of the board of directors of Sears-Roebuck & Co., received a special gold medal.

NEARLY THREE MILLION VOTERS REGISTERED IN N. Y.

Albany, N. Y.—A total of 2,822,892 residents of New York state enrolled last year and can vote at both the spring and fall primaries, according to an announcement made recently by Robert Moses, secretary of state. This total is 24,774 under the enrollment in the fall of 1926. The spring primary is scheduled for April 3 and the fall primary for September 18.

The democratic enrollment last fall totaled 1,325,821 as against 1,344,574 in 1926; the republican enrollment last fall being 1,478,822 as against 1,483,780; the socialists enrolling 18,249 as against 19,312. The drop is due to the fact that last fall was what is known politically as an off year. In the fall of 1925 the democratic enrollment was 1,246,389; republican, 1,451,173; socialist, 19,099.

LINCOLN, NEB.

Miss Evelyn Battles appeared in a violin recital at Quinn chapel A. M. E. church last Thursday night and was accompanied by her sister, Miss Inez Battles, on the piano. Mr. P. M. E. Hill gave a solo. Miss Cleo Ross rendered musical selections. The program rendered was quite worth while.

Mr. Paul L. Moore is lying critically ill at his home on South Eighth street.

Palm Sunday was observed by the Heroines of Jericho at Masonic hall Sunday afternoon. An interesting program was attended by a fairly large crowd.

The touring trip given by Mrs. Ursula Botts and young people last Friday night proved to be an enjoyable affair and quite a success.

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