

# New News of Yesterday

By E. J. Edwards

## THE ARGONAUTS IN NICARAGUA

How Seventy-Five "Tramp" Gold Seekers Waited for the Virgin Bay Boat That Had Gone Over a Dam.

Recently, through the kindness of Dudley Jones, of Little Rock, Arkansas, a surviving argonaut, I was able to give his vivid description of the abortive road which Commodore Vanderbilt build in Nicaragua for the transportation of the early California gold seekers across that country, and of the conditions of travel on that 33-mile stretch of country lying between Virgin Bay, on Lake Nicaragua, and the port of San Juan del Sur, on the Pacific Ocean.

That road to Eldorado Mr. Jones became intimately acquainted with when, in company with 75 homeward bound gold seekers, he trapped it from San Juan del Sur to Virgin Bay, because he and his companions had sailed from San Francisco, not on a Vanderbilt steamer, but on a tramp sailing vessel, and, hence, they had no claim on the Vanderbilt company.

"As we came in sight of the lake," said Mr. Jones, "we saw the Vanderbilt lake steamer, which we had hoped to catch, out in the lake—just starting, with a deck black with people, on the trip across the lake and down the first half of the San Juan river to Castillo, where it connected with the light-draught river boats that plied between Castillo and the seaport of Greytown, where Vanderbilt's Atlantic steamers touched. We were left at Virgin Bay, which consisted of three or four bamboo huts and the Vanderbilt 'company house,' so-called. That was a large warehouse made by setting poles in the ground, with other poles for rafters, and over and around these poles blue muslin cloth was stretched. It was a cheap thing, but it answered the purpose of a dry place for travelers to spread their blankets when they were forced to stop in Virgin Bay overnight. Black native dirt made the floor, and the spreading of one's blanket upon it constituted sovereignty, and was so recognized. "Having secured lodging in the 'company house,' we started out to find something to eat, and shortly made the discovery that Virgin Bay was almost deserted by natives, and bereft of food, except when the Vanderbilt lake boats touched there, which was twice a month. There was not enough food in the whole place to furnish us 75 'tramps' with a square meal. The next day, finding that nothing was being brought in, some of

us, in such skills as we could find, started up the lake foraging. The best we could do was to collect a scant supply of beans, plantains and bananas—the staples of the country.

"For four days we fasted and prayed for the return of the lake boat; the trip to Castillo and return could easily be made in 24 hours, and not even the Vanderbilt agent could imagine what was detaining the steamer. On the fourth day the agent secured a schooner from some old don up the lake, and just as the sun went down the last of us crawled into its hold, and with a good breeze we went racing down the lake. The boat was about 50 feet long and 8 or 9 feet wide—just wide enough for us to back against the sides and for our feet to touch on the gunwale. The stone ballast was under the board seats on which we sat, and a person six feet high could not sit straight on account of the deck overhead.

"We made a good night's run to Castillo, and to our surprise next day saw the missing lake steamer lying, not at the wharf above the dam, where she usually ended her journey, but at the wharf that Vanderbilt built below the dam, and from which point he carried his passengers to Greytown in the small river boats. The passengers the lake steamer had brought down were also at the lower wharf—that is, most of them were. The others—I never knew how many—had been drowned three or four days before when, as the steamer was about to make fast to her wharf, a strong current seized her and carried

her stern foremost over the dam. She negotiated the drop without serious accident, and all who remained on board while she was doing so were landed safely at the lower wharf. But many of those who jumped overboard in panic while the steamer was heading for the dam were drowned, and the gold dust strapped around them in belts weighing them down.

"At Castillo we 75 'tramps' became 'regulars,' securing passage in the Vanderbilt river boats as far as Greytown. On our way down the river we met none other than the redoubtable Commodore Vanderbilt himself on the new lake boat he had towed from New York, as we learned when we reached Greytown. He hailed our captain, talking for a few minutes about the condition of the river, etc., and then passed on.

"That was the first and only time I ever saw Commodore Vanderbilt," continued Mr. Jones, "and it has often seemed strange to me that I should have met both Commodore Vanderbilt and Commodore Aspinwall, who established the Panama route for gold seekers, but once, and that once in their own spheres of action thousands of miles from where I had heard so much of them in my early childhood."

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### No Place for Such Things.

The deacon's wife wanted to jot down the text, and, leaning over her scapegrace nephew, she whispered: "Have you a card about you?" "You can't play in chapel," was his solemn, reproving answer.

And the good woman was so flustered that she forgot all about the text.

## GOVERNOR AND ASPIRING CLERK

How David Bennett Hill Gave Earnest Young Man the Chance to Obtain an Education as a Physician.

In his second term as governor of New York, David Bennett Hill learned of the industry and the honorable ambition of a young man whose home was in a village not far from Elmira, N. Y.

"The boy is very anxious to become a doctor," Governor Hill was told. "He is studious, but he makes a bare living as a clerk in a little drug store. He is almost in despair because he does not see how he will be able to save money enough to prepare for and pay his expenses at a medical school. "I know the boy," Governor Hill re-

plied. "He is, as you say, industrious, his habits are always good, and if he has an ambition to become a doctor, the way shall be found by which he will be able to take the necessary course at some medical school. I will see what can be done."

Soon after this Governor Hill was visiting Elmira, and, as though casually, visited the drug store. He greeted the young clerk very cordially. He asked him how he was getting along, and whether it was his purpose simply to become a druggist.

"Oh, no, Governor Hill, I don't want to be a druggist. I am clerking in this drug store simply to earn my living. I am trying to save money."

"That is a very good habit to get. Are you saving for any special purpose?"

"Yes, governor, I am very anxious to be a doctor. When I was a little boy I made up my mind that I would be a doctor. Since I have been in this drug store I have mastered prescriptions, and I have learned the various qualities of drugs. That would be of great service to me if I were to be a doctor."

Gov. Hill meditated a moment and then turned to the clerk. "How would you like to come to Albany and live in my house?" he asked. "You know, I live in the executive mansion. There is a very good medical school at Albany. If you live at my house it would cost you nothing. You would be considered a member of my executive family. We would see about preparing you for and securing you an entrance to the medical school. How does that plan strike you?"

"Why, governor, I never could forget such kindness," cried the youth.

"When can you come?" asked Hill. "Whenever you say," was the instant answer.

So it happened that this young drug clerk was installed inconspicuously among those who, as clerks, were in the employment of the governor at the executive mansion. Eventually, he passed through the medical school and took his degree. On the day after the graduation, the governor asked him: "What are you going to do now?"

"Oh, I'm going to begin practice."

"I don't advise that," said Hill. "You go to Bellevue Hospital, in New York. I will see to it that you gain entrance there. Devote at least two years to hospital practice. Then you will be fully equipped to practice."

That advice was followed, and the young drug clerk whom Governor Hill had thus helped afterwards began practicing in his professional work justifying all of his benefactor's expectations and interest.

His name? Well, it may be that, when the executors of Senator Hill's estate make public their probate work this name will be disclosed.

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## NOT OLD ENOUGH FOR HONOR

How Nehemiah D. Sperry Missed Being Governor of Connecticut Because He Was About Six Months Too Young.

Nehemiah D. Sperry, the father of the house of representatives that recently held its final session, is in his 84th year. For fifty-seven years he has been active in the politics of his native state of Connecticut. In 1853, when he was 25 years old, he became a member of New Haven's common council, and the greater part of the time since then he has held office, either elective or appointive. Made postmaster of New Haven by Lincoln in 1861, he held that post for over twenty-eight years, and he has been in congress since 1894. He retired on March 4, having refused to stand for re-election on account of his advanced age, though he is in perfect health and is characterized by the mental vigor that was his when he went on Ericsson's bond and thus assured the building of the "little cheese box on a raft" that revolutionized naval warfare.

Fifty-four years ago when Mr. Sperry had served a year as secretary of state of Connecticut, his party—at that time the Know Nothings—met to nominate a candidate for governor. "It was pretty active in politics," said Mr. Sperry, "and I had a good many friends in the organization. I also had a good many friends among the Democrats. It has always been my idea that a politician should make friends among his political opponents; I have always found it a good policy. And noting that I had a large personal following among the opposition, my own party friends began urging the party to nominate me as governor, using the argument that I could poll a large vote among the Democrats."

"So well did these friends talk that even before the convention had been called to order I discovered that the

delegates were bound to nominate me for governor. I went around among them and told them they must do no such thing, but they paid no attention to me. Indeed, when the convention met the delegates seemed unwilling to wait for the regular order, so 'ot' were they in their desire to name N. D. Sperry for governor.

"Well, at last I went out upon the platform, and for a time could not make myself heard. When I had secured quiet I said to them: 'You must not nominate me for governor.' But they would give no heed to me. Then again I said to them: 'You must not nominate me for governor; for I cannot accept. And if you will be quiet long enough I will tell you why.' I coaxed and waited, and at last they became quiet enough for me to explain 'I cannot accept because I could not be governor even were I elected.' I said: 'The constitution of our state says that a man must be 30 years of age to qualify for governor. I shall not be 30 years of age until next summer and the governor is sworn in in May. Therefore, you will see that if you nominated and elected me I could not serve. But if you are willing to take my suggestion, I will advise that you nominate Governor William T. Minor.'

"Of course, once I had got my explanation made, they had to take as quiet heed of it. But they were still keen to have me on the ticket, and so, after they had renominated Judge Minor for governor, they chose me again as their candidate for secretary of state. And from then on until I went to congress in 1894 I never again held an elective office."

"I wonder," added Mr. Sperry reflectively, "how many other men have missed being governor by being six months or so too young to qualify for that office?"

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## WAYS OF CROSS-EXAMINERS

How Two Famous Lawyers, Sullivan and Armstrong, Handled Perjured Witnesses.

Two famous cross-examiners at the Irish bar, says Francis I. Wellman in "The Art of Cross-Examination," were Sergeant Sullivan, afterward master of the reels in Ireland, and Sergeant Armstrong, Barry O'Brien in his "Life of Lord Russell" describes their methods.

"Sullivan," he says, "approached the witness quite in a friendly way, seemed to be an impartial inquirer seeking information, looked surprised at what the witness said, appeared grateful for the additional light thrown on the case. "Ah, indeed! Well, as you have said so much, perhaps you can help us a little further. Well, really, my lord, this is a very ingenious man. "So playing the witness with caution and skill, drawing him stealthily on, keeping him completely in the dark about the real point of attack, the lit-

tle sergeant" waited until the man was in the meshes and then flew at him and shook him as a terrier would a rat.

"The 'big sergeant' (Armstrong) had more humor and more power, but less dexterity and resource. His great weapon was ridicule. He laughed at the witness and made everybody else laugh. The witness got confused and lost his temper, and then Armstrong pounded him like a champion in the ring."

### To Repair Glass.

One of the neatest and most successful ways to repair broken glassware or china is simply apply, with a little stick or thin knife blade, sun-dried soft white lead, such as used in house painting, to edges of broken parts and band with strip of thin cloth while lead is hardening. Remove the band in a few days and you will often find article in as solid condition as before breaking.

## HOME NURSING

By EDITH B. LOWRY  
Bachelor of Science, Graduate Nurse,  
Physician and Surgeon.  
Formerly Superintendent of Jefferson Park  
and South Chicago Hospitals and Training  
Schools for Nurses, Author of "Confidence"  
—A Book for Young Girls.

### BED MAKING.

One of the most essential items in the care of a patient is proper preparation and care of the bed. One of the first requirements of a good nurse is her ability in this line, and yet how seldom do we find anyone except a trained nurse who understands this matter so essential to the patient's comfort?

First, the mattress must be protected, both for the sake of cleanliness and for economy. Unless the patient has involuntary urinations or bowel movements, a soft pad will be sufficient. Over this the lower sheet should be drawn smoothly and pinned to the under side of the mattress at the corners. The upper sheet and blanket come next. These should be well tucked in at the foot of the bed, but not so tightly as to be uncomfortable for the patient. The upper edge of the blanket must be protected by turning the end of the sheet back over it.

When the patient is very ill, or if the nature of the illness is such that the lower sheet becomes soiled, a draw sheet should be fastened in place, a sheet of rubber cloth, about a yard square, is placed across the middle of the bed, allowing the upper edge to meet the pillow. This is pinned in place by one safety pin at each corner. Over this is placed a sheet that has been folded crosswise. The hems should come at the bottom so as not to form a ridge under the patient's back. The sheet should be securely tucked in at the sides.

The changing of the linen should be managed with as little fatigue and discomfort to the patient as possible. This can be done easily by one person, unless the patient is very ill or helpless. Only the upper sheet or blanket is left over the patient; the lower sheet is then loosened at top, bottom and sides; one side is then folded along its entire length, lengthwise as flat as possible close up to the patient. The fresh sheet should then be folded lengthwise, alternately backward and forward, for half its width, and placed on the side of the bed from which the soiled one has been removed. The nurse then goes

to the other side of the bed, turns the patient carefully on his side facing the nurse. She then tucks the folded sheets close up to him, smoothing the clean sheet carefully. She then turns the patient over onto his other side. In so doing he passes the folded sheets, so that they are now at his back and he is lying on the clean sheet. The soiled sheet can now be removed and the other half of the clean one smoothed out and the sides and ends tucked in. The upper sheet and blanket are then replaced as before. In changing the upper sheet the clean one is spread over the top of the bed and held in place while the soiled sheet and other clothing are removed. In this way we avoid exposing and chilling the patient.

When the patient cannot be turned on his side the sheet must be changed from top to bottom. The soiled sheet being loosened at the top and pushed well down under the pillow, the clean sheet is then started at the top and pushed down under the pillow also. In changing the sheet in this manner two persons are required, one standing at each side of the bed and working the sheets down slowly and carefully.

In making a bed care must be taken that a seam of the sheet does not come under the patient's back. Several times a day the under sheet must be smoothed free from wrinkles. All bed linen should be thoroughly warmed and aired before commencing the making of the bed, and everything should be placed in a convenient place so there will be no delay during the process.

In cases of fractured limbs one person must gently lift the injured limb while another changes the sheet under it. In these cases a wide board (table leaf or ironing board) should be placed across the bed under the mattress to prevent it from sagging. Water beds and air beds are used in cases of prolonged illness to prevent bed-sores.

The old-fashioned feather bed has no place in a sick room. Where one is in use the nurse must use a great deal of ingenuity to be able to dispense with it, for in this age anyone who uses a feather bed is liable to be very "set" in her ways.

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## Two Good Suggestions



Useful Coat.—For cravenette, serge or covert coating, this is a most practical pattern. The panel back, also fronts, are laid over sides in wrapped seams, stitched about a third of an inch from the edge.

The lining, which is of shot silk, extends only to the hips. Stitched tweed hat of the same color as the coat, trimmed with a wing, is in the best style.

Materials required for coat: 5 yards 48 inches wide, 4 1/4 yards silk for lining.

Serge Costume.—Very dark navy serge is used here; the skirt has a wide front and a deep added piece at

foot laid over the upper part in a wrapped seam; buttons in a closely set row trim each side of upper front. The deep turn-over collar and cuffs are of white cloth.

Hat of stretched black satin trimmed with oxidized galloon and gray ostrich feathers.

Materials required: 7 yards 46 inches wide, 4 yards skirt lining, 4 1/2 yards silk for lining jacket, 3/4 yard white cloth, about 7 dozen buttons.

ure is a velvet bolero suit trimmed with plaited lace.

Revers that end in a cape effect at the back are used on little dresses.

To Whiten Piano Keys. Piano keys that have become yellow with age may be whitened by touching lightly with a clean rag dipped in javelle water and wiping off with clear water afterward.

Lift the key to be cleaned above the others with a finger and hold it firmly. Secondly, use only the very smallest amount of javelle water, because if you let any of either liquid drop on to the wood it will cause the wood to swell.

The process is, however, safe if a woman will be careful.

If one key is cleaned at a time and the directions given are followed success will come.

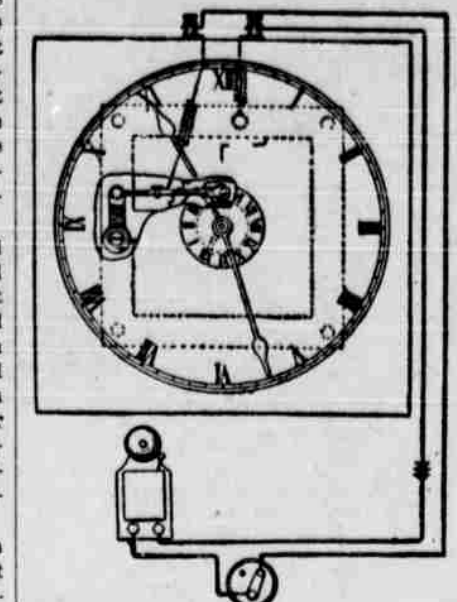
The Right Spirit. While I gaze out on the forest and hills and the beautiful sunlight, I want God's love to shine into my heart, as the sun shines upon the earth.—Tennessee Housewife.

## THE ELECTRICAL WORLD

### NEW ELECTRIC TIME SIGNAL

Device Invented by Missouri Man May Be Set for Any Hour Desired—How Connected.

An alarm signaling device, which may be applied to a clock already in use or be built into a clock as originally constructed, forms the subject matter of a patent recently granted



Electrical Time Signal.

to J. I. Johnston of Graham, Mo., says Scientific American. The signaling apparatus consists of a signal bell and battery circuit, one terminal of which is connected to a brush bearing against a disk of insulated material, the other is connected to a segment in the aforesaid disk. The disk is mounted on the cannon of the hour hand and connected therewith is a small dial on the face of the clock. To set the alarm for any desired hour the dial is turned so that the brush will come in contact with the metal segment when the hour hand of the clock reaches the desired hour.

### FIND CURE BY ELECTRICITY

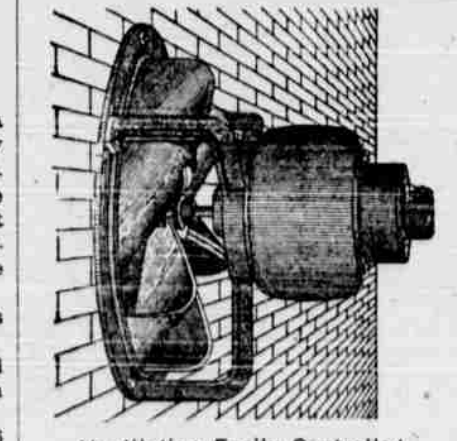
Diseased Tissue, Like Cancer, Can Be Destroyed Without Loss of Blood—Other Results.

New possibilities in medicine have been discovered by Dr. Franz Nagelschmidt in the healing effects of electric currents. In a demonstration before the London Royal Society of Medicine, he used an alternating current of as much as two and one-half amperes at 800 volts—instead of the very small current of 100,000 volts tried by D'Arsonval, a quarter of a century ago—and with this he showed heating and cooking action confined entirely to the narrow path of the current. With the two poles placed on opposite sides of a piece of liver, the current coagulated the portion corresponding to the diameter of the electrodes, all except that in the direct course traversed being unaffected. In a solution of white of egg in a glass, though, the hardening could be watched, and with a current of 0.5 amperes it was seen to commence midway toward them. The practical value of this action is expected to be great. Diseased tissue—like cancer—can be destroyed without loss of blood, localized pains can be relieved promptly by moderate heating, and many other results can be achieved, including that of strengthening and accelerating the heart's action.

### USE MOTOR FOR VENTILATING

Fans Especially Adapted for Theaters and Large Restaurants—Speed is Easily Regulated.

When one is seated in a cool, comfortable theater waiting for the curtain to go up, it is quite easy to give no thought as to how this condition of the air is attained, says Popular



Ventilation Easily Controlled.

Electricity. The accompanying illustration reveals one means in the ventilating fan operated by an electric motor secured to the wall. The device takes up and forces out the foul air. This method of forced ventilation can be and is used also in both large and small restaurants. One of the features of the illustration is the fact that during the periods when many people are to be cared for the fan may be run at full speed, while during the lax or closed hours the system may be run at slow speed or shut down entirely by the simple adjustment of a lever or the throwing of a switch.

### Record Long-Distance Wireless

A record for long-distance wireless telegraph communication was recently reported by the Marconi company. A new station which is being erected at Buenos Ayres, Argentina, has received messages that were exchanged between Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, and Chiffin, and Ireland. The distance between these two stations and that at Buenos Ayres is about 5,600 miles.

### First Fire Alarm.

The first alarm of fire by an electric telegraph system was given at 8:30 p. m., April 29, 1852, in Boston.

## REFORM IN LIGHT SYSTEMS

Importance of Preserving Eyes of Workers Brought to Attention of Architects and Owners.

The question of proper lighting is coming to be more vital every day. In the cities there are thousands of workers who do all the work by artificial light, and such places as hotel lobbies, railroad stations, libraries and the like are now constructed so that artificial lighting is necessary at all hours of the day and night. The importance of preserving the eyes of workers and patrons is therefore brought to the attention of employers and architects with the construction of every new building. The system which stands in highest favor just now is the "concealed light" method, because it saves both light and eyes. It does away with all direct rays and makes a glare impossible. With the source of light hidden much less power is needed to light a given cubic space.

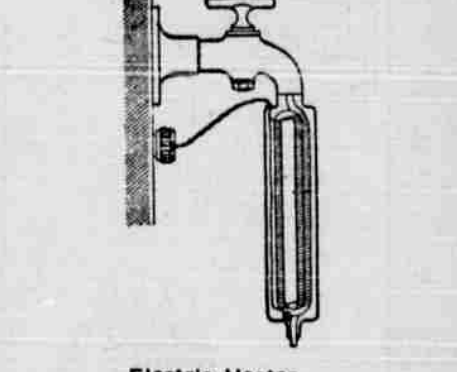
This is fairly familiar, but in this connection certain English reports have brought out a few figures with regard to concealed lighting which are new. For instance, the concealed lighting system of the British museum, which has been found most satisfactory for all purposes, is really only seven one-thousandths as intense as daylight. The light in the woolstack in the house of lords is only six one-thousandths as intense and that of the clerk's desk in the house of commons one twelve-thousandth as intense. This is certainly a "cheap enough" system, and what is more, remarkable universal testimony goes to show that it is pre-eminently satisfactory.

The difference between the old glaring method of lighting and the new concealed lighting may be seen in the lobby of the Auditorium hotel in Chicago by any one who was familiar with the place before the new lights were installed.

### ELECTRIC HEATER ON FAUCET

Water is Warmed While Passing Through Brass Tube Wound With Fine Nickel-Steel Wire.

A French instantaneous water heater for direct attachment to the faucet is shown in this drawing. It consists of a brass tube containing a coiled glass tube wound with fine nickel-steel wire, says Popular Mechanics. The water is heated while passing



Electric Heater.

through this tube, which projects through the lower end of the protecting brass tube. Connection with the electric current is by means of a flexible wire.

### Speed of Electric Trolley.

In 1902, in a German government test, an electric trolley car made an average speed of 128 miles an hour, while the fastest record speed of a steam locomotive is 120 miles in an hour. A carrier pigeon, in a hundred-mile flight in 1900, flew at the rate of 85 1/2 miles an hour, which has been nearly equaled by the fastest motor-cycle—84 1/2 miles.

### Storage Battery Car.

Experiments with the Edison storage battery car have been made by the Erie railroad between West Orange and the junction of the Greenwood Lake branch at Forest Hill. It is planned to use these cars in regular service between these points, and from Forest Hill the passengers will be carried by the regular trains.

### Money Moved by Electricity.

An electric vehicle, the only one of its kind in the world, is used to transport on an average of \$7,000,000 daily from the bureau of engraving and printing to the treasury department at Washington.

### Plucking Chickens.

A powerful electric plower has been devised for plucking chickens. When the dead chickens are placed in the strong suction all the feathers and down are quickly removed.

## ELECTRICAL NOTES

Electric locomotives probably will be used for towing ships through the Panama canal.

To take up the strain more evenly a Swedish inventor has produced electric cables with hempen cores.

A windmill-operated electric generator produces current for electrically lighting a church near Bilston, England.

A novel electrical advertising clock operates a phonograph to call the attention of passersby to advertisements which it displays.

The falls of the River Jordan below the Lake of Galilee are to be harnessed to supply electricity to the larger towns of Palestine.

A New York department store is installing a wireless outfit so that passengers on incoming liners may do their shopping by wireless.

To handle the telephone business in the five largest office buildings in New York city no less than 2,360 miles of wire are required. Of these the Hudson Terminal building—or Buildings, since it is a twin edifice—take 750 miles.

A new electric lamp for automobile headlights is mounted on a bracket to be attached to an oil or gas burner in such a way that it may be folded to one side and the burner used if desired.