

PROPHETS WITHOUT HONOR.

In this age of skepticism, when natives of the state of Missouri seem to be surprisingly numerous and the principle of "seeing is believing" has been carried to extremes, the professional prophets who issue almanacs of prognostication have enjoyed a peculiar immunity. Every year the credulous and superstitious hasten to buy their publications and to marvel at the wide range of predictions which they comprise. While the circulation of these almanacs is more extensive in Great Britain than in this country, it is not gratifying to our national pride to learn that 100,000 copies are prepared annually for American consumption. But even at this late day some of the dupes are "getting wise" and beginning to check up the prophets, comparing promise with performance, says Pittsburg Gazette-Times. Zabelle, Old Moore and other of the prognosticators who make their headquarters in London have been subject to this process, and the result should not be without its effect on the circulation of their next year's almanacs. The only time the professional prophets made a hit is after the event. The number of inspired persons who predicted the San Francisco earthquake is beyond computation, but one and all neglected to warn the threatened city until it was too late. If people are going to be so mean as to check up old predictions and see whether they came to pass, it won't be long until the prophet is with out honor not only in his own country, but everywhere else.

The peril which attends travel through some of the Alpine passes is indicated by a tragedy which involved the death of six men who were on their way to Italy from Switzerland. They were smugglers, and their course lay through the Forcola Pass. One of the party gave a shout of farewell to those whom he had left, and this brought down a vast body of snow piled above. The six men were buried by the avalanche, forming a mass 65 feet deep, and there is no hope of recovering the remains until the snow melts in the spring. The poet knew the possibilities when he uttered the warning "Beware the awful avalanche." A snowslide that can be dislodged by a human voice is a terror to avoid if possible.

The weight in pounds of a gnat is .000006. Its wing area in square feet is .0003, which gives the monster .0204 pounds to the square foot. The scientist who has enlightened the waiting world with this interesting fact does not state the creature's "pounds per horse power." Next time you get one in the eye you may figure it for yourself. It would be interesting to have scientific data as to the mosquito's suction pump; and we think it is generally known that by far the most powerful and terrible of all the wild beasts of the field, in proportion to its size, is the salivatory flea.

The British lords will have to come down from their high perch, the New York policemen have been forbidden to club citizens at pleasure, and now a janitor in that same city has been sent to prison for playfully tapping an inquisitive tenant on the head with a monkey-wrench. It begins to look as though an air of freedom for the down-trodden and oppressed actually were beginning.

A chauffeur in New York who killed a child by his speeding automobile and then raced from the spot is to be tried for murder in the first degree. The endangering of life by the speed mania is so deliberately taken a risk that the law under which murder in such cases is charged seems eminently just. There has been far too much leniency with this species of public danger.

Wisconsin has a university professor and a medical scientist who is not afraid to champion the claims of human nature and heart interests against abstract science. He said recently in a lecture that kissing is risky, but it's a poor sort of fellow who won't take chances at it.

A New York man 85 years of age has refused to enter a home for old people because his mother-in-law, aged 115, is an inmate of the institution. We declare without fear of successful contradiction that this is carrying prejudice against the mother-in-law too far.

A rich man in Boston was arrested for slapping a young girl in the face. The intellectual center of the nation needs some mixture of chivalry with its culture.

The Washington florist who claims he can grow black roses should help the widows materially in throwing away such decorations as ordinary weeds.

No matter how Roosevelt went out, he is coming back like a whole circus.

Dresses for Girls



The first is in finely checked tweed, and is trimmed from shoulders to hem in front by a shaped strap of plain material, a yoke is formed by it at the back. Two plaits are made on either side of strap in front and one at the back; they are not stitched down, but are slightly drawn in at the waist by a band of plain material, pointed at the ends, and caught down by buttons. The cuffs and collar are of plain cloth stitched at the edge, a little silk bow adds a finish at the front.

Materials required: Three and one-half yards of tweed 48 inches wide, one yard plain cloth, two buttons. Cashmere veiling would make up well for the second. It is a simple little dress with a plaited skirt and

bodice arranged to match; both back and front are alike; while the prettily shaped yoke is of the material, embroidered with a simple conventional design. The sleeve is a small bishop, set to an embroidered cuff.

Materials required: Four yards, 48 inches wide. For the third, almost any dress material, including velveteen may be used. The bodice has a tuck each side; the tucked vest fastens on the shoulder, the material in front. The skirt has only slight fullness at waist, it has a tuck each side front and back to appear as a continuation of those on bodice.

Materials required: Three and one-half yards, 44 inches wide, one-half yard tucked silk.

FIXING OVER THE PARASOL

Fix up last season's parasol in advance, and listen now to a note of the season before you venture on this timely renovation.

Fringe to match or to harmonize is the fresh touch to be added in imitation of the newest.

It is the quaintest-looking twisted silk fringe, ranging in width from one to three and a half inches and having a fussy little gimp border, which there is no effort to conceal.

After the parasol has been cleaned with a soft brush or sponge dipped in gasoline (do it in the open air) and allowed to dry, still wide open, the fringe is basted upon the edge and sewed by hand with silk to match.

All of the work is done upon the open parasol.

Some slight embroidery, like a row of polka dots, may be done where fringe joins the parasol. They are put on in the flat Japanese stitch, and if of a contrasting color there should not be chosen a note that is too strikingly different.

The conspicuous parasol is not necessarily the most beautiful.

HAT STAND EASY TO MAKE

Contrivance That Will Add Much to Comfort of Life in the Summer Cottage.

For the summer cottage there are many new contrivances to make living more comfortable. Among them is a long rod on a stand and with a soft cushion on the top, intended as a resting place for a big straw hat.

These new hat stands are not at all the kind one sees at the milliners. Far from it. They are really quite ornate in their way, bound with soft cretonne or printed saten, whichever best goes with the hangings of the room, while the cushions at the top are covered and edged with lace ruffles.

Sometimes the whole stand is covered with brocaded satin, trimmed with gold lace and hung with those French ribbon flowers. Or again, white linen is used and the cushion top is embroidered. Like everything else, they may be as costly as one could wish and they add greatly to the femininity of the dress closet.

BLOUSE FOR EVENING.

Blouse of white lace with corslet of gold gullipure forming points. The pure borders the low neck and forms the cuffs. The bretelles and sleeves are of mousseline de soie.

Dyes in Brown. It is highly probable that soft dyes in brown will be modish this spring. A few tans and russets shown are adorable. They are so soft, so attractive, and there are a hundred different nuances. All tan or all fawn colored gowns were modish many years ago and lovely they were. It has been ages since we had a visitation of tans and deep creams, and the public is ready for their reception. The golden browns worn this winter have been among the few pretty colors.

Preserving Youth. To preserve a youthful appearance let the diet be nourishing and digestible, with plenty of hot milk and milk cocoa. A greasy skin requires strict attention to diet, from which cream, much butter, all pastry and rich foods must be excluded. Those subject to flushing of the face should not drink hot liquids, only warm ones. Pale people should eat underdone meat, lightly cooked eggs, oysters and plain white puddings, and drink hot milk freely.

The Bavarian Girdle. One of the belts of the season is the folded girdle of panne velvet which is boned to an excessively long, sharp point in front. The dressmakers have given it the name of the Bavarian girdle or the girdle of Venice.

It will be worn on dressy afternoon and evening frocks, and will not be separate, but a part of the gown

HAWAII'S BIRD ISLAND



JUST LEAVING ITS NESTING LEDGE

RECENT news dispatches from Honolulu reported that the revenue cutter Thetis, which had been ordered to visit Laysan and the other bird islands belonging to the Hawaiian group in order to investigate rumors that Japanese were slaughtering the birds breeding on these islands, had returned with 23 Japanese prisoners and 250,000 pairs of wings valued at \$100,000 which had been taken from birds killed by the Japanese and seized by the cutter officers as evidence.

These bird islands are among the most remarkable in the world. The Hawaiian islands proper number 12. Eight of these, Hawaii, Maui, Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe and Nihoa, are inhabited, while Molokini, Lehua, Kaula and Nihoa are uninhabited. In addition are a number of small islands and reefs, many of the latter awash at high water, running nearly a thousand miles to the north-westward, some of which are famous as breeding places for birds and are temporarily occupied by workmen of the guano companies which have their headquarters in Honolulu.

Americans have been gathering guano from Laysan and a few of the other islands for some years. Even before annexation Japanese plume hunters had been visiting the islands, where they slaughtered thousands of the birds, shipping the wings and feathers by way of Asiatic ports to Europe. This practice was forbidden by the United States at the time Hawaii was annexed, but for several years afterward a tugboat was the only government vessel stationed at the islands and the poachers were unmolested and became very venturesome.

Many of the larger Japanese sampans engaged in fishing for the Honolulu market are fitted with power engines, and the fact that some of them made mysterious trips, lasting a week or two at a time, aroused the government's suspicions. These were further strengthened by reports that Japanese steamers were visiting the bird islands and surreptitiously taking away the plunder gathered by the small boats.

In order to control the situation the government a short time ago made a bird reserve of Laysan and the other bird islands of the group. Of this group Laysan, which is about eight hundred miles from Honolulu, has been called the most remarkable bird island in the world. It is a small island, being three miles in length and half a mile in breadth, is formed like a shallow platter, and at its highest point is not more than thirty feet above the sea. In the center is a lagoon not connected with the sea.

At the time of the writer's first visit to this island, in May, 1902, the nesting season was in full swing and there were hundreds of thousands of birds upon the island. Among these could be seen the albatross, a number of species of tern, the noddy, puffin, petrel, tropic bird, man-o-war, teal, rail, plover, curlew and a number of strictly land birds.

The most striking things to a visitor are the great number of birds, their surprising tameness and the deafening noise they make. Whenever we wished to converse it was necessary to shout. Few of the birds seemed frightened, and with a little care we were able to approach most of the species as closely as we wished. In fact when the camera tripod had been adjusted several of the albatrosses came up to it and examined it attentively.

The various species are found more or less in colonies. The number of breeding birds is so prodigious that favorable space is at a premium, and several species live one above the other, some burrowing below the surface, others breeding on the surface, while still others have their nests at varying heights on the shrubs. As one member of the party put it, "It looks like a big apartment house."

Space being so limited, the birds which have chosen Laysan for their breeding home would not be able to find satisfactory places if they all arrived at the same time. They are therefore obliged to take turns. Some species of sea birds leave the place as soon as their young are strong enough to fly, and while they are departing the newcomers already begin to arrive. Thus there is a constant coming and going and breeding species are found at almost every season of the year, a fact which is remarkable

even in the tropics, where the breeding season is generally less regular than in our latitudes. In this way a definite succession, which probably dates back thousands of years, takes place year after year in the arrival and departure of certain species.

It was almost impossible when walking through the rookeries to avoid stepping upon the eggs, they were so numerous. The eggs of the sooty tern, *Sterna fuliginosa*, were to be found all over the sand.

The birds are very loath at times to leave their nests and scold soundly before finally slipping off. When at last driven they limp away, dragging their wings, just as is done by some birds in this country when trying to lure a human being away from their young. Sometimes as many as a dozen at a time would be struggling on ahead of us and trying to draw us away from their nests.

Whenever we drew near the eggs of the white tern, or love bird, as it is sometimes called, the parents came and hovered in front of our faces and peered intently at us as if trying to divine our intentions. Just out of reach they would flutter, turning their heads from side to side, occasionally uttering a droll and wheezy little cry. They did not offer to peck us, but were content to stare and wheeze.

They lay their eggs in all sorts of odd places; we found one on the bare limb of a bush, a precarious and insecure spot. A remarkable thing about the old mother bird is that she brings two fishes at a time to the young and invariably carries them crosswise in her bill. An earlier observer reports seeing an old bird with four fishes in her beak at once.

The dazzling white plumage of the albatross makes it the most striking of all the birds which frequent Laysan. They are absolutely fearless and do not seem to mind the presence of man, and you can walk among them without disturbing their various occupations and amusements in the least. They have an innate objection to idleness, and consequently seldom stand around doing nothing, but instead spend much time in a curious performance, which by some has been called courting. As the antics are carried on during the birds' residence of about ten months on the island they are probably a form of amusement.

Another odd nesting bird is the male man-o-war, *Fregata aquila*. During the courting period his gular pouch is enlarged and before the brooding cares have begun he inflates it to a large size, and at the same time it becomes a bright red color, the bird looking as if it had a child's toy balloon fastened to its throat.

It was a common occurrence to see the male bird setting on the nest with the sac blown out, obscuring the whole front of the creature, only the bill and eyes appearing over the top. His antics are as extraordinary as his looks, and when engrossed in the task of making himself attractive his self-absorption and apparent vanity are very amusing.

Many of the freshly laid eggs we found to be delicious as food, and some of them, especially those of the albatross, were superior to the eggs of the domestic fowl. If these islands were nearer to market their produce would soon knock the egg trust sky high.

Sexton's Odd Epitaph. Dock Bentley, who died this morning, years ago caused to be constructed a tomb with this peculiar inscription:

I am here. How do you do?
I am dead and so are you.

Bentley had this tomb made when he was sexton at the city cemetery, and took excellent care of his grave, it being one of the neatest in the cemetery. It was his particular pride, but now that he is dead it probable the stone will be changed and a less distinctive epitaph carved.—Walla Walla correspondence Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

A Born Optimist. "Poor old Blifkins has been wrestling with trouble again."
"And trouble threw him, I presume?"
"Yes, as usual; but he got right up and said he had a new struggle hold which he felt sure would help him to win next time."

An Iowa Farmer's Letter. Joseph Wilding, a prominent farmer, who lives on R. F. D. 6, Council Bluffs, Iowa, writes the following letter in regard to the treatment he received from the United Doctors at 16th and Harney streets, Omaha: "I had suffered for seven years with very severe kidney and bladder trouble and run down nervous system. I got so bad that I lost all hope of ever being any better. I was treated by all the best doctors I could hear of, but was gradually getting worse. At last I heard of the great cures being made by the United Doctors' new system of treatment and went to them. Now, after three months of their treatment, I am more than delighted with it. I had no idea that so great a change could be brought about in so short a time. I would be glad to answer any sick person who cares to ask about the United Doctors and their wonderful treatment."

Just Like Spaghetti. Marjorie, aged six, was speculatively examining the noodles in her soup. "Mother," she asked, "what are noodles made of?" Dorothy, aged eight, bursting with knowledge, laughed scornfully. "I know," she volunteered. "They are not made at all, you silly goose; they grow—just like spaghetti!"—Harper's Magazine.

Pettit's Eye Salve First Sold in 1807 100 years ago, sales increase yearly, wonderful remedy; cured millions weak eyes. All druggists or Howard Bros., Buffalo, N. Y.

An empty human heart is an abyss earth's depths cannot match.—Annie C. Lynch.

IF LENS CURVED IN 6 TO 14 DAYS. PAZO OINTMENT is guaranteed to cure all cases of itching, blind, bleeding or protruding eyes in 10 to 14 days or money refunded. 60c

The best people on earth are your wife's folks—so she thinks.

Lewis' Single Binder cigar. Original Tin Foil Smoker Package, 5c straight.

A man reaps what he sows—and reaps what his wife sows.

Stomach Ills May Seem Trifles

At the start, but that is when you want to take the matter in hand. Neglect can only result the one way—sickness. The stomach is largely responsible for one's health and strength and as such it needs to be kept in a normal condition. If it becomes weak, the food remains undigested, ferments, and causes untold suffering. Thus you lose the strength-giving properties of your food and you become weak and run down. This is very noticeable at the beginning of Spring when the system is overloaded with Winter impurities, the bowels clogged with the blood thick. No wonder you have "Spring Fever." Commence taking Hostetter's Stomach Bitters this very day and cleanse the entire system. Then your Stomach Ills will also vanish. It is for Sick Headache, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Spring Fever, General Debility and Malaria.

Nebraska Directory

JOHN DEERE PLOWS

ARE THE BEST

ASK YOUR LOCAL DEALER OR JOHN DEERE PLOW CO., OMAHA, NEB.

WELDING (AUTO GENOUS) By use of machinery made good as new. Welds cast iron, cast steel, aluminum, copper, brass or any other metal. Expert automobile cranking. **BERTSCHY MOTOR CO., Council Bluffs.**

TAFT'S DENTAL ROOMS

1517 Douglas St., OMAHA, NEB.

Reliable Dentistry at Moderate Prices.

TYPEWRITERS ALL MAKES

By 50¢ per week. Cash or three months. Rental, rent applies. We ship anywhere for free examination. No deposit. Write for catalogue. **H. F. Swanson Co., 1215 Pacific St., Omaha.**

RUBBER GOODS

By mail at cut prices. Send for free catalogue. **MYERS-DILLON DRUG CO., Omaha, Neb.**

BOILER MEN You can cut out any size flue by hand with the MEEDER Cutter in eight seconds. Railroads use them. Write for sample. **Herts by Motor Co., Council Bluffs, Ia.**

DO YOU PLAY BASE BALL?

1,000 UNIFORMS IN STOCK

Write us for catalog and wholesale prices on Base Ball, Tennis, Golf and SPORTING GOODS of all kinds.

TOWNSEND GUN CO.

1514 FARNAM ST. OMAHA

Rural Telephones

Do you realize that rural telephones, more than anything else, tend to increase the earning power of every farmer?

Do you realize that ALL of the material needed to build the very best rural telephone line will cost you, and your neighbors, less than \$25.00, each?

We have brought the telephone within the reach of all.

Free Bulletin No. 11, gives full instructions.

Western Electric Company
Omaha, Nebraska