

In the Limelight

Device to Talk With the Dead



Thomas A. Edison said recently that he was working on a device to enable the dead to talk with the living.

The American Magazine, in which the announcement of Mr. Edison's experiments is made, has obtained the eminent inventor's theories of present and future life. It is upon these theories that Edison bases the plausibility of the epoch-making device which he hopes to construct.

In the experiments he is making for the purpose of constructing an apparatus to link the living and dead, Edison is proceeding upon the theory that personality continues to exist after what we call "life" leaves our present bodies. But the degree of material or physical power possessed by those beyond the grave must be extremely slight, he believes, and the instrument used for communication must be super-delicate. The mechanical details of Edison's apparatus are not disclosed.

"Take our own bodies," says Edison. "I believe they are composed of myriads of infinitesimally small individuals, each in itself a unit of life, and that these units work in squads—or swarms—as I prefer to call them—and that these infinitesimally small units live forever. When we die these swarms of units like a swarm of bees, so to speak, betake themselves elsewhere, and go on functioning in some other form of environment."

These life units are, he thinks, so infinitely small that probably a thousand of them aggregated together would not become visible under even the ultra-microscope.

Manuel Declines to Try Again

Former King Manuel of Portugal apparently has no desire to attempt to get back his throne. At a secret meeting of his partisans held at his country home at Twickenham, near London, he declared his irrevocable intention never to seek to regain the throne from which he was banished after the assassination of his father and elder brother in Lisbon.

Economic conditions in Portugal are very bad and the country is said to be ripe for another revolution. Portugal obtained no compensation for her share in the World war. Since then Portugal has been fighting desperately to overcome domestic troubles, and the royalists, fearing that Bolshevism would come, rushed a message to London urging King Manuel to counter the threatened soviet movement by making another bid for the throne, the monarchy still being popular in parts of Portugal.

The former king decided that an attempted monarchical coup would make Bolshevism inevitable if it failed. He then dispatched to his supporters in Lisbon a refusal and added: "Without renouncing my traditional principles, I am ready to place myself under the orders of the nation if it is in peril. Meanwhile I will continue to do all in my power to promote the welfare of Portugal in England, her traditional ally."

By acting as an unofficial ambassador for his country in England he is fulfilling his own ambition to settle down permanently to English country life.

Kelly Would Build Us Homes



Representative M. Clyde Kelly of Pennsylvania, has brought forward a novel suggestion in connection with the housing situation. In brief, he proposes to convert the postal savings bank system into a national building and loan association, from which the people may borrow the money required to build homes. Mr. Kelly proposes that the \$175,000,000 now on deposit in the postal savings banks be made available for building purposes at reasonable interest rates. He asserts that if congress will amend the present law, so that the \$2,500 limit on deposits is eliminated or greatly enlarged, and the rate of interest paid on deposits by the government is increased from 2 per cent to the rate paid by savings banks, the postal savings deposits will be increased probably to \$2,000,000,000, all of which can be used for home building.

High interest rates are now recognized to be the greatest impediment to home building. Thousands of people who have saved enough to buy the ground upon which to construct a residence are deterred from building by high interest charges and the exorbitant commissions demanded for placing the loan. Since the only permanent relief from the general scarcity of homes can come from building, the remedy is thus indefinitely delayed, even in the face of price reductions in building materials.

Edge on "Splendid Isolation"

Walter E. Edge, United States senator from New Jersey, has returned from Europe with certain definite impressions of the people of various countries and their war reconstruction problems.

"Up to the outbreak of the World war," said the senator, "the average American visitor to Europe returned with his mind filled with the past. Now such a traveler comes home with his thoughts turned to the future, the future of Europe, of America, and the whole world. He realizes that now America's 'splendid isolation' is at an end; that the future of Europe will affect the future of the United States, and the future of the United States involves the future of all civilization."

Beyond this, the traveler also may feel that a measure of idealism now must be injected into the consideration of strictly practical affairs.

"Such a measure must be a reasonable measure and not sufficient to place the foundations of world re-adjustment on an impracticable basis, and so build on foundations of sand."

"In other words, business must be transacted in a businesslike manner, but without thought of a literal 'pound of flesh' as an alternative in the settlement of accounts."



WHAT YOU WILL IN NEGLIGEEES



"ANYTHING you will" appears to be the attitude given fair woman this season in the choice of negligees. They are here in supple silks and in transparent fabrics following many paths in the quest of style and drawing inspirations from many lands. One has to look twice at some of them in order to decide whether they are really meant for indoor wear or are colorful extravaganzas in evening coats. They are made on lines familiar to us in wraps for evening wear. There are others of airy materials—lace, chiffon and georgette—that are suited to the tropical air of steam-heated homes or the lands of perpetual summer and there are many attractive but simpler models in cotton crepe that are destined to give more general satisfaction than their fancier rivals.

The wraplike negligee which has

been selected for illustration is beautiful and practical. It is made of two colors, in satin which forms the lining as well as the wrap and may be interlined if one must depend on it as a protection against chill. It is very handsome in high blue, with rose-colored lining, but there are any number of beautiful color combinations in which it may be made. The lining forms the superposed collar and appears in the turned-back front. Such a negligee is useful on a journey for the sleeping car and in hotels and is especially easy to get into as only two fastenings are required to hold it in place. The draping is unusual and the management of the sleeves original and interesting. In them and in the soft and heavily padded cord about the bottom the designer pays tribute to Japan, but otherwise this negligee does not suggest a kimono.

RIVALS IN TINY GIRL'S GARB



HERE are two garments designed for the little girl of three or more years, that have everything to recommend them, which means that they are sturdy, good looking, easily made and laundered and up-to-date in style. They are rivals; for one is a frock similar to those worn by little maids for generations, and the other is a very modern example of a pair of rompers. Their very name proclaims the emancipation of small girls from the tradition of skirts.

In passing it is worth noting that bloomers have replaced petticoats for wear under the frocks of little girls, in all their everyday garb. They are gaining in favor for older girls and for grownups, giving greater freedom in walking. Rompers serve as a combination of dress and bloomers, a two-in-one arrangement that saves in sewing, in material and in laundry work.

For the dress pictured, chambray, gingham, cotton poplin or any of the strong cotton goods will prove appropriate. It could hardly be more simply made, being merely a full, straight skirt shirred onto the narrowest of yokes, a mere band of the chambray with flat shoulder straps attached and a decorated braid applied to it. The skirt is cut long enough to turn up in a very deep hem, bordered with the fancy braid. Place is made in the hem for two real pockets, much to the de-

light of little wearers, who always dote on pockets. There is a bow of chambray, bordered with braid, placed purely for ornament and having no other use whatever, thus proclaiming that the frock is intensely feminine, and furthermore the underbodice is made of dainty white batiste. The braid used for trimming reveals many scampering rabbits woven in colors on it. Life is one perpetual round of joy when one owns frocks like this to put on of an afternoon, or to wear to school.

The bloomers illustrated are made of light checked gingham and finished with white embroidered bands in a fairly heavy quality. They are very full and flare out at each side like a dancer's frock. There is a plain belt about the waist with flat pearl buttons on it. This particular pair of rompers is in pink and white checked gingham. Only the simplest of designs in embroidery are to be chosen for rompers. Very simple hand needlework, on clothes for little folks, is still in great demand, but machine-made trimming does very well, as the two examples pictured will prove.

Julia Bottomly

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THE KITCHEN CABINET

"All riches are desirable and we are justified in seeking them all; but the richest of mind and soul give the greatest happiness and add the most to life."

THE LUNCH BASKET.

Now that school has begun again, the problem of getting the lunch baskets ready has also begun.

To prepare a good, wholesome lunch which will satisfy a growing child both as to appetite and taste is no small piece of work, for five days in the week, nine or ten months of the year. In many schools lunches are served, but in the great majority children still must carry the noonday luncheon when they live too far to go home.

A few suggestions as to the lunch-box: Buy a package of paper napkins and wrap food in them, or in paraffin paper, thus keeping the food flavors unimpaired. When practical small paper cups for custards and jelly or gelatine desserts are light and attractive.

A meal in which all the important kinds of food are represented tends to keep the child in good condition and give him good habits of eating.

The following are some suggestions for a bill of fare for the lunch basket:

Sandwiches, with sliced tender meat for filling; baked apple, cookies and a few raisins or two or three pieces of pure, home-made candy.

Slices of meat or bean loaf, bread and butter sandwiches, stewed fruit, or a cupful of jelly and a small frosted cake.

Crisp rolls hollowed out and filled with flaked fish mixed with salad dressing, an orange or an apple, and cake.

Lettuce or celery sandwiches, cup custard, and jelly cake.

Cottage cheese, chopped green pepper with bread and butter sandwiches, fruit, cake and a few peanuts.

Crisp baked powder biscuit, buttered, hard-cooked eggs celery or lettuce, brown sugar or maple sugar sandwiches for dessert.

A bottle of milk, corn bread and butter, a handful of dates and an apple.

Raisin or nut bread buttered, cheese, orange and maple sugar.

Chicken salad in a crisp roll hollowed out, apple sauce, a piece of sweet chocolate.

Who shall have vision to pierce the mist
Enshrouding the common thing,
Or see in the dark hours, sorrow
Kissed,
The gleam of an angel's wing?
The world is wide, and the world is
cold;
Its mysteries pass our ken;
And only to God are the secrets told
Which live in the hearts of men.
—Christine Davis.

MORE GOOD THINGS.

For those who like rich pastry or cake the following will be a treat:

Scotch Short Bread.—Beat one cupful of butter to a cream, add one-half cupful of light brown sugar, then work in four cupfuls of pastry flour.

If the flour is slightly warm it will work in more easily. Form the mixture into two flat cakes seven inches in diameter. Decorate the edge with a fork or by crimping with the thumb and finger. Sprinkle the top with chopped cherries, caraway candies or preserved citron. Bake in a slow oven.

Tapoca, Pineapple Sponge.—Scald two cupfuls of grated pineapple and half a cupful of boiling water in a double boiler, add one-fourth of a cupful of minute tapioca and one-fourth of a teaspoonful of salt. Stir occasionally and let cook about half an hour, then add the juice of half a lemon and one-fourth of a cupful of sugar. Fold in the whites of two eggs beaten stiff and cook until the egg is set. Serve hot or cold in glass cups with whipped cream as a garnish.

Marshmallow Cream.—Soften one teaspoonful of gelatin in two or three tablespoonfuls of cold milk, then dissolve by setting the dish in boiling water. Add half a cupful of sugar and one cupful of double cream and beat until firm. Beat the white of a small egg, then fold it into the cream with half a teaspoonful of vanilla, half of a quarter-pound box of marshmallows cut in quarters, half a cupful of skinned and seeded white grapes cut in halves, one banana cut in cubes, and mixed with a tablespoonful of lemon juice to keep the pieces from discoloring. Dispose in glass cups with a cherry here and there. Garnish the top with a quarter of a marshmallow, sprinkle with fine-chopped nuts and chill before serving.

Date Cornmeal Pudding.—Scald a pint of milk and pour it over one-half cupful of cornmeal, add one tablespoonful of butter, one cupful of sugar, one-half teaspoonful of cinnamon, three-fourths of a cupful of well-washed dates cut in pieces, and two beaten eggs. Turn into a baking dish and bake until of the consistency of ordinary custard. Serve with hard sauce.

Nellie Maxwell

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JUST A LITTLE SMILE



STRANGE.

"There's one thing I can't understand about these spirit communications," remarked Mr. Brown as he finished reading the account of a highly successful seance.

"What's that, John, dear?" asked his wife.

"Why, you never hear of a departed soul having gone any other place except straight to heaven."

Absurdities in Attire.

"I must say," remarked the derisive person, "that a man looks ludicrous in the clothes his wife goes out and buys for him."

"Maybe," replied Mr. Growcher. "But not any more ludicrous in my opinion, than his wife does in the clothes she goes out and buys for herself."

"Bill" Never Saw a Locomotive.

Critic—You have written a fine play. There is one scene in particular that even Shakespeare could not have produced.

Author—You flatter me. Which scene do you refer to?

Critic—The railroad accident in the last act.

No Necessity.

"It is a pity your husband's temper will not allow him to get along well with the servants. I hope he will not have an explosion with your new cook."

"He couldn't. She lit the fire this morning and then poured on gasoline."



NO OLD SHOES

"Did you throw any old shoes at the bride?"

"No. Didn't have a pair that I felt I could afford to throw away nowadays."

Something Lacking.

I've pencils, pens and paper white,
Erasers and a quart of ink,
What a great poem I now might write
Could I but contrive to think.

Resemblance.

"Owens is a sort of a human dynamo."

"That fellow! Why, he hasn't energy enough to work and pay his bills."

"Exactly! Everything he has on is charged."

When Noah Was a Sailor.

Noah looked aft.

"I'll certainly win the race with forty days and no competitors," he cried.

That's Different.

Redd—Thought you told me that was a ten-horsepower automobile of yours?

Greene—So I did.

"Well, I can't believe it."

"Why not?"

"Because, I noticed it took only one horse to pull it back home today!"

A Bit of a Dig.

Boreleigh—Do you like a man who quotes poetry?

Miss Bright—As a rule. It is apt to be preferable to his original conversation.

Easy Enough.

"You can easily quit worrying if you try. Now the rising price of gasoline doesn't bother me at all as it used to."

"Strength of will, I suppose."

"No; sold my car."

A Pretty Good Method.

"Why do you encourage your boy to send his verses to the magazines? Do you want him to be a poet?"

"No, merely want him to get the conceit knocked out of him, that's all."

Improved by Travel.

"There is a great deal of improvement to be derived from travel."

"There is," replied Farmer Cornsoll. "When I was to town and took lunch at a restaurant, I was surprised to see how a little bit of travel had improved the price of a head of lettuce."

The Future.

"How are they going to deal with the thieves who steal airplanes?"

"I suppose the fly cops will hunt them down with moon-dogs."