



# EDITORIALS



OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

## The "Skyscraper" Experiment.

**A**PPEARANCES indicate that the United States will remain the leader, as it was the pioneer, in the erection of "sky-scrapers." For the most part foreign conservatism continues to look askance at the dizzy height to which Yankee architects have driven these vast frameworks of steel enclosed by thin shells of walls, whose power to support the structure of which they form a part is practically if not wholly nil.

Several months ago certain German builders addressed a petition to the Imperial Government, which has a hand in regulating pretty nearly everything in the Empire, and the burden of their prayer was that the law which restricts the height of buildings in Berlin to seventy-two feet, might be amended or repealed. The final answer given was a refusal on the ground that very high structures were likely to be unsanitary, that they would house too many people, and that fires in their top stories would be difficult to cope with.

As for the objection because of sanitary principles, that, of course, is nonsense, as everybody who has gone through a big modern office building in the United States knows. The average American who lives in a big city will be disposed to reject equally the other criticisms. But it is, perhaps, just as well to bear in mind that, even with us, the fifteen or twenty-five story building is something of an experiment, and that although it has so far stood the test admirably, ultimate judgment on its safety and durability can hardly be pronounced for a couple of generations yet.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

## Health in the Factories.

**I**T is significant that the findings in regard to the health of workmen and the sanitation of factories by the State Board of Health and by Professor Sedgwick, the Lowell Institute lecturer, working independently, should be the same. It is a fairly conclusive demonstration of the correctness of the findings, because both investigations on the subject reach the same conclusion, one being based upon an examination of actual conditions, and the other upon the researches of all the workers in this field. The conclusion is that in all of the industries which are regarded as dangerous to the health the operatives are largely to blame because they neglect simple and obvious sanitary and hygienic precautions.

The report of the State Board of Health, which is made under a special resolve of the Legislature of last year, discloses a lamentable indifference of the workmen to their surroundings. In those institutions where dust is created in large quantities, and where the death rate from consumption is remarkably high, many of the workmen discard the simple appliances which are introduced to minimize this source of danger. In one brass-polishing shop, for instance, where hoods connected with a forced draft are put over the buffer wheels to take away the dust some of the workmen had removed the hoods because "they were in the way," allowing the dangerous and poisonous dust to fill the atmosphere. Spitting on the floors in industrial establishments is exceedingly common, and one consumptive can poison the whole atmosphere of the rooms, spreading death and disease among his fellow-workmen.—Boston Transcript.

## Regulating Marriages.

**L**EGISLATOR STEWART has introduced in the House of Representatives a bill to regulate marriages. It provides, in brief, that before a couple can secure a license to wed they must produce certificates from a reputable physician, setting forth that they are physically sound and fitted to enter upon the marital relation. It may become a law and it may not. In either event it will not make the slightest difference. Marrying and giving in marriage will continue to do business at the same old stand, all laws and statutes to the contrary notwithstanding. Such a law would be a dead letter from its very inception. There could always be found a physician who would give the necessary certificate for the asking, and few, if any, would be as punctilious as such a law would demand.

There was a time when persons possessed of physical deformities were forbidden to wed, for fear that they might reproduce their kind, and the insane and epileptic were put to death for the same reason. Happily, that day is past. Our present civilization places enough restrictions about

marriage without the necessity of adding to them by statute. The average young man of to-day hesitates to take unto himself a helpmeet unless he feels that he can give her equal comforts to those she has enjoyed under her father's roof. All our grandparents thought necessary was mutual consent and \$2 for the preacher. And when they did not have the \$2 the minister had to wait.

Such a law would not reduce the number of marriages, nor tend in any way to bring about the survival of only the fittest. Those who feared they might come within the inhibition would trek to Iowa, Kansas, Illinois or Arkansas, where there are no such laws, and come back legally bound together. And if the marriage was legal where it was contracted, it would be legal here. There would always be a way out. Love laughed at legislators long before the first locksmith was born.—Kansas City World.

## Defective Indictments.

**J**USTICE has been defeated in its efforts to punish the men indirectly responsible for the Iroquois Theater horror. A Chicago judge has quashed the indictments against the owners and managers of the theater on the ground of insufficiency. The prosecuting attorney may attempt to secure a reindictment, but it is more than likely that the cases will be dropped.

When the fire occurred and it was heralded over the country that over 600 human beings had perished in the flames, there was a demand for vengeance, for the punishment of those who had neglected their sworn duty or flagrantly ignored the law. It was made clear that if the provisions of the building ordinance had been enforced, there could have been no such sacrifice of life, and the grand jury hastened to fix the responsibility. Popular indignation was allayed by the manifest purpose of the authorities to bring the guilty and the negligent to task.

But evidently some one has blundered and although the fire happened over a year ago, the courts are no nearer a trial of the cases than they were then. Meanwhile the catastrophe is only a memory, save in the minds of those whose relatives perished, and public sentiment is no longer demanding redress.

The country found some recompense for the useless sacrifice in the additional strictures that were placed upon theaters, but even these are now being forgotten in the mad onward rush. It seems that we need something constantly before us for a reminder of our duty as law-abiding and law-enforcing citizens.—Toledo Blade.

## Why Business Men Fail.

**T**HE young man who contemplates embarking in business will do well to study the rocks and shoals upon which thousands of enterprises are annually wrecked. An earnest understanding of these things will serve as chart and compass and enable him, unforeseen disasters being barred, to successfully weather whatever storms may come his way.

The statistics for 1904, just compiled, show that during the past year 10,417 individuals, firms and corporations suspended, owing more than they could pay. The number appears large until it is understood that it represents less than 1 per cent of those engaged in business.

The causes of 77.1 of last year's failures were found in the individual, while only 22.9 per cent were traceable to causes over which he did not have full control. The greatest factor in bringing about disaster was lack of capital, or its dangerous equivalent, the attempt to do a larger business than the capital in hand justified. Behind this was the desire to get rich quickly, and the result was that to this one cause alone is traced one-third of the year's business casualties.

Next to that comes incompetence, due to poor selection of vocation, poor judgment or management, or actual unfitness for the business entered upon. From one-fourth to one-fifth of all failures are attributable to this.

Thus, out of eleven heads, under which commercial agencies group failures, two are responsible for more than half of the shipwrecks, and both of these are found in the individual and not in conditions that he cannot control.

The chances of success in business are rather dubious when entered upon by a man not equipped with the proper capital and the necessary understanding of the nature of his undertaking. But these things being granted, and perseverance, hard work and good habits, the chances for failure are so small as to be not worth taking into account.—Indianapolis Sun.

before him a copper basin filled with millet and some little paste images. The tent was full of smoke from the hearth.

Upon a given signal the clerical orchestra began a noisy overture, the lay witnesses beating time with their hands. The diabolical concert over, the Grand Lama opened the book of exorcisms and began chanting the forms.

From time to time he scattered millet to the four points of the compass. Sometimes he would quit the regular cadence of prayer and indulge in an outburst of apparently indomitable rage, abusing the herb image with fierce invective and furious gestures. When he had finished he gave a signal with his arms, and the other lamas burst into a tremendously noisy chorus, setting all the noisy instruments to work at the same time.

The lay congregation, having started up, ran out of the tent and three times circled round it, beating it with sticks and yelling in the most blood-curdling manner all the while, and then re-entered the tent as precipitately as they had quitted it. Then, while the others hid their faces, the Grand Lama set fire to the herb image and carried it from the tent into the plain, where he watched it burn and mathematized it. In the tent the other lamas tranquilly chanted prayers in a solemn tone.

The expulsion having been thus accomplished in the finest manner, the

members of the family secured torches, and accompanied by the nine lamas, all making night hideous with cries and beating of instruments, escorted the patient to another tent, where she fell asleep, to awaken later without her fever. The incantations succeeded, and the illness did not return.

## Camel Racing in the Desert.

The racing camel is very carefully bred and valuable prizes are offered by a racing society at Biskra for the fleetest racer. I have seen the start of a race and it reminded me, in a far-off sort of way, of a horse race. The camels were all arranged in line and they snuffed the air in their anxiety to be off. A flag was waved, and they set off at a terrible pace, as if they were only racing for a short distance. They kept together until they were almost out of sight. Then they seemed to settle down to their habitual pace and the race proceeded with long intervals between the competitors. I have also seen the finish of a camel race, and it reminded me of the first motor car promenade between London and Brighton. The camels were certainly not so broken down and bedraggled, but they came in at intervals of several hours and great patience was necessary to watch them arrive.—Pearson's Magazine.

Girls, which would you rather be, a grass widow or an old maid?



**OLD Favorites**

Go where glory waits thee,  
Go where glory waits thee,  
But while fame elates thee,  
Oh! still remember me.  
When the praise thou meetest  
To thine ear is sweetest,  
Oh! then remember me.  
Other arms may press thee,  
Dearer friends care thee,  
All the joys that bless thee,  
Sweeter far may we;  
But when friends are nearest,  
And when joys are dearest,  
Oh! then remember me.

When at eve thou rovest  
By the star thou lovest,  
Oh! then remember me.  
Think, when home returning,  
Bright we've seen it burning.  
Oh! then remember me.  
Oft as summer closes,  
When thine eye reposes  
On its lingering roses,  
Once so loved by thee.  
Think of her who wove them,  
Her who made thee love them,  
Oh! then remember me.

When, around thee dying,  
Autumn leaves are lying,  
Oh! then remember me.  
And, at night, when gazing,  
On the gray hearth blazing,  
Oh! still remember me.  
Then, should music, stealing  
All the soul of feeling,  
To thy heart appealing,  
Draw one tear from thee;  
Then let memory bring thee  
Strains I used to sing thee—  
Oh! then remember me.  
—Thomas Moore.

**"One Touch of Nature."**  
For time is like a fashionable host  
That slightly shakes his parting guest  
By the hand,  
And with his arms outstretched, as he  
would fly,  
Grasps in the corner; welcome ever  
smiles,  
And farewell goes out sighing. O, let  
not virtue seek  
Remuneration for the thing it was;  
For beauty, wit,  
High birth, vigor of bone, desert in service,  
Love, friendship, charity, are subjects all  
To envious and calumniating time.  
One touch of nature makes the whole  
world kin—  
That all, with one consent, praise new-  
born gauds,  
Though they are made and molded of  
things past,  
And give to dust that is a little gilt  
More laud than gilt or erudited.  
—William Shakespeare.

## LIFE ON A FIGHTING SHIP.

Notes Monotonous as It Once Was for the American Naval Officer.

Wardroom life aboard American men-of-war has greatly changed with the growth of the new navy. The bigger ships of to-day carry more officers than those of twenty years ago, and the hastened promotion of the last five years has changed somewhat the character of the personnel in the wardroom. The officer who presides at the head of the wardroom table is no longer a grizzled veteran who has eaten his heart out with twenty years of monotonous service in the grades below lieutenant-commander. Bearded ensigns 30 years of age and drawing pay that barely enables them to live no longer haunt the ships of the United States navy, says the Philadelphia Ledger. Promotion and command come earlier, and men who even ten years ago would have been seated well toward the foot of the wardroom table now dine in the lone dignity of the cabin. With the fuller table of the wardroom there is more variety of character and conversation and with greater activity everywhere throughout the service men have livelier interests. Old stories are not heard so frequently, and men do not harden into set peculiarities of views and manner as they did when promotion was slow and duty, from being the same for long years together, was dull and insipid.

Some things remain, however, much as they were, because tradition is powerful in the navy. Chaff? Yes, a good deal of it as of yore. There is always some man in the twenty or more who live in the wardroom keen enough to penetrate the most secretive of his fellows and discover their lurking weakness. Once discovered, that weakness is a proper subject for chaff. The freshness of "the young doctor," the indolence of the paymaster, the susceptibility of the junior lieutenant, are subjects that furnish unending amusement when conversation runs low. On the whole, the chaff of the new navy is fresher, and less monotonous than that of the old, because there is a wider range of individual peculiarities.

Wardroom hospitality is of the old flavor, though perhaps the increased variety of wardroom life makes the landsman a little less welcome as a dispeller of monotony. It is a singularly hearty and courteous reception, however, that awaits the guest in the

bowels of the great iron pots in which American naval officers now go to sea. The presence of a guest always carries with it certain privileges. Then it is a matter of course that the executive officer at the head of the table nods in the affirmative when the request is made that smoking be permitted after dinner. Ordinarily the smoking is done on deck above hatches, but a landsman may be supposed to find it more agreeable not to leave his seat at table when the time to smoke arrives.

The landsman's breeding is put to a pretty test when he becomes a guest aboard ship, and the officers are quick to detect the fact that the visitor has failed to realize that the wardroom is both drawing room and dining room, and to comport himself accordingly. He may not feel any marked coolness in the attitude of those with whom he is dining, but his individual host is likely to hear something from his messmates that will prevent the reappearance of the offensive guest. The visitor who makes no mistakes and has something to say worth hearing is sure of a welcome, and is made to see that he is the guest not only of the officer who brings him on board, but of every denizen of the wardroom. To the guest the talk of the table is likely to be fresh and interesting, no matter how trite it may be to some of his hosts. Nobody objects to an old story, so long as the guest seems to relish it, though after his departure ample revenge may be taken upon the offender.

## BEWARE THE TUB.

Wear More Clean Clothes and Bathe Yourself Less.

The medical faculty are keen upon microbes, but never before has the Englishman's "tub" been assailed. Now we are not only warned against the dangers of the daily or weekly bath, but deliberately told that we are courting pneumonia and various diseases.

Is this true? Medical authorities speak of the necessity of keeping the pores open. Physiologists depict the danger of not bathing, and early in life we are educated into the principles of the daily bath until it becomes a confirmed habit.

It is argued that the higher the civilization the more public baths, the more private bathtubs, the more provisions for hot water, and, as a rule, the weaker the progeny.

The construction of the skin is not sufficiently strong for the frequent use of that product of modern civilization—the daily bath.

It is said that in the days of our youth we have a strong predilection to avoid the bath; that we are attracted to mother earth, and grow fat and dirty—"no, not dirty, but covered with elements that are helpful to us." Instinct teaches children right; man's accumulated knowledge leads him astray. Which is to be trusted, instinct or this pseudo knowledge? The chick makes no mistake in following the duckling into the pond. All animals governed by instinct avoid bathing in the winter. The primitive condition, then, is the natural one, and civilization is all wrong.

Now it seems the bath fills the skin with blood; the blood in the surface is immediately chilled, passes into the heart and is pumped into the lungs; result, congestion of these organs—pneumonia. We may escape with a slight cold, but the experiment was foolish. It is a useless waste of vital force, and causes more work for every organ. In the winter time we eat more meat and food, which causes poisonous debris, and we perspire little, waste in the summer time we eat much less meat, more fruits, and perspire much, therefore the skin eliminates no poison, and an examination of the human perspiration shows it to contain nothing poisonous.

This is how pneumonia is invited; The victim gets into a tub of hot water; he lathers his body with soap. He rubs the skin with a flesh brush; the skin glows; the blood vessels are taxed to their limit. The soap dissolves the fat that agglutinates the pores and holds intact several layers of epidermis. He leaves the bath tub—a glowing, healthy man, yet without a prey to pneumonia. In the morning he goes to work. In the evening the evil sprite begins the work. And for what is all this risk? To be clean? Not so! For to be clean is not to be moist, but to be dry, and not to bathe, but to keep clean clothes.

Therefore, on this principle, a chimney sweep is clean, because the outer skin is covered with soot; the mine is not dirty because he is covered with carbon.

Why do we bathe? To be clean or to look white? Is, after all, the Englishman's love of his tub a more species of vanity?—London Express.

## The One Thing Needed.

Lodger—I wish you would put a better mattress on my bed.

Landlady—Better mattress! Why, that is a genuine hair mattress.

Lodger—Oh, that being the case, perhaps a bottle of hair-restorer is all that's necessary.

"I don't like your steam heat," said a farmer who lately moved to town. "I want something that will roar; a wood fire in a box sows."