

**Popular Science.**  
The Paris meteorologist, Prof. Météoricht, estimates the quantity of water turned into vapor by the sun in the Mediterranean sea alone on a clear hot summer day at not less than 5,280,000,000 tons. At that rate the quantity of water taken from the entire globe on one hot day within the limits of the temperate and tropical zones would amount to not less than 245,000,000,000 tons.

**A Good Appetite**  
is essential for health and physical strength. When the blood is weak, thin and impure the appetite fails. Hood's Sarsaparilla is a wonderful medicine for creating an appetite. It purifies and enriches the blood, tones the stomach, gives strength to the nerves and health to the whole system. It is just the medicine needed now. Remember

**Hood's Sarsaparilla**  
is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Sold by all druggists. Be sure to get Hood's.

**Hood's Pills**  
are fast, low, mild, effective. All druggists, 25c.

1897 **Columbia** Standard of the World. Bicycles. \$100 to all alike.

Practically tested by fast riders, rough riders and fair riders, 1897 Columbia have not been found wanting in speed, strength and beauty. 5% Nickel Steel Tubing, patent flash joints and direct tangent spokes are some of the new features.

**POPE MFG. CO.,**  
Hartford, Conn.  
Catalogue free from any dealer, by mail for one 2-cent stamp.

HARTFORD BICYCLES, \$60, \$55, \$50, \$40.

**FUN MAKING**  
and health making are included in the making of HIRES Rootbeer. The preparation of this great temperance drink is an event of importance in a million well regulated homes.

**HIRES Rootbeer**  
is full of good health. Invigorating, appetizing, satisfying. Put some up to-day and have it ready to put down whenever you're thirsty.

Made only by The Charles E. Hires Co., Philadelphia. A package makes 5 gallons. Sold everywhere.

Only line via Custer Battlefield.

**Through Yellowstone Park on a Bicycle**

The Passenger Department of the Burlington Route has leased—and will gladly mail to any one who will ask for it—a little booklet giving full information about the best way to make the tour of Yellowstone Park on a bicycle. There is nothing so important as about the trip. The trip has been made again and again to the supreme satisfaction of every one of the dozens of riders who have been bold enough to undertake it.

The booklet contains a good map of the Park, as well as full information about the cost of the trip, what the roads are like, what to take, etc. Write for a copy.

J. FRANCIS, General Passenger Agent, Omaha, Neb.

**WEIGHTY WORDS FOR Ayer's Sarsaparilla.**

"For some years I was quite out of health, and took much medicine which did me no good. I was advised by a friend to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla, which I did, taking a dozen or more bottles before stopping. The result was that I felt so well and strong that I, of course, think there is no medicine equal to Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and I take great pains to tell any suffering friend of it and what it did for me."—Mrs. L. A. MURRAY, Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 11, 1906.

**Reflections of a Quackster.**  
Every man has a sneaking idea that he looks "distinguished." It is called hon-symoon because most everyone gets sick of it when he's young.

The first thing a woman says when she hears anything against a man is: "How I pity his poor wife!"

An ideal couple is one where each claim to make the greatest sacrifice for the other and really thinks they are the greatest.

**SLOWLY STRANGLING AN ELM.**  
A Connecticut Wisteria Vine Which Is Playing the Role of a Python.

At the top of the hill in Church street in Norwich a big vegetable python is slowly strangling a large elm, says the New York Sun. It is a wisteria vine, said to be the largest in the State, perhaps in the country. In the open sunny garden of the George D. Coit place, next to the Storm Sec. Congregational Church. At its base it is about a foot in diameter. A foot above the ground its trunk divides, and it sends one fork, an important one, though a hundred feet in length, northward along the front of the handsome Coit house. Its other and interesting fork, consisting of three huge strands, each four inches thick, trails along a broad garden fence for twenty feet, and then enters a stately elm that is at the inner edge of the flagged city walk. Noting the great snake vine from the street, one has a keen and lively impression that it is a veritable serpent that has just leaped upon the tree, enfolding it in a deadly construction. Before entering the elm the three strands are firmly bound in a monstrous cable with manifold small, round, withe-like bands emanating from the strands themselves. Singularly uncanny and menacing they seem interlaced, twisted and coarcted, as if writhing in each other's hostile embrace, and the fact that their bark is smooth and of a dusky brown hue, like the hide of some venomous vipers, deepens the impression that they are pythons. Immediately after entering the elm the cable divides into its several strands, and each travels up the tree in its own eccentric, serpentine way. One strand, three inches thick, throws a coil so tightly about the elm trunk, just below its lowest boughs, that it has cut a deep circular furrow into the bark.

This coil is choking the life out of the tree. Ascending, the threefold serpent flings coils after coils about trunk and branches, and finally lifting its plumed green crest high above the elm's crown gathers it into its embrace. The tree is naturally thrifty and luxuriant, but it already shows plentiful tokens that its powerful enemy is throttling it. The tips of its lower boughs are dry and dead, and about its foliage is sere or yellow. Before another year it doubtless will be dead, and then the vegetable serpent may east at will on its leafless carcass. In the end it may pull the tree's skeleton down and thereafter, if it had its own licensed way, would travel on to another elm in the street and throttle and destroy that. When in full bloom, with a hundred purple flower clusters, the wisteria is gorgeous and beautiful, but one easily fancies then that the splendid blossoms are mottled patches on the pythons' hide, and the vine does not seem so lovely.

**Home of the Wild Horse.**  
A correspondent says in a Texas paper: "I believe this is the greatest horse country in the world. It was certainly his home in the wild state, which proves I think, that it was adapted to his wants. He was roaming this vast prairie country long before the white man concluded to make it his home, and he is here still within twenty miles or less of this place. It is said, but this may be a little doubtful; but 150 or 200 miles west of here he abounds in large droves, and from what I learned of parties that know the term 'wild' fits them extremely well, for they can snuff you from two to five miles away, and, at the signal of the horse on guard, they bound away, and by the time the feeblest horse can catch them, though he have the staying qualities of the old four mile repeater, he is completely exhausted."

**Ivory.**  
All ivory ornaments can be whitened if carefully brushed with soap and water, rinsed in plain water, allowed to drain a little, and then placed, for as long a time as is required, in the sun and air. The sun has a peculiar bleaching property with regard to ivory.

**STAR ROUTES.**  
How the Term Was Applied to Mail Contracts.

It is not often that an official report proves interesting reading to any but those whose business requires them to keep informed on the subjects treated. But the Second Assistant Postmaster General in his last report has managed to inject a very interesting account of the origin of the term "star route."

"Prior to 1845," he says, "it was the practice of the department in accepting bids for the transportation of the inland mails on other than railroad and steamboat routes, to have regard, in some cases, to the mode of transportation, preference being given to bidders who proposed stage or coach service."

Congress in 1845, however, abolished this preference, and provided that in future lettings for such routes there should be no other reference to the mode of transportation than that necessary to provide for the due "celerity, certainty and security" of the transportation. Bids for this service were thereafter classified as "celerity, certainty and security" bids, and to avoid constantly writing out these words the clerks of the contract division designated them on the route registers by three stars, and they became known as "star bids."

The first official use of this term appears in the Postmaster General's report for 1850, where he speaks of them as "star bids," as they are termed in the parlance of the service."

The terms "star bids" and "star routes" continued to be a part of the lingo of the service, but did not again receive official approval until 1857, when the appropriation was made by Congress for "inland transportation by star and steamboat routes." Two years later the appropriation was for "star routes" alone and direct, and since 1858, at the time of the celebrated "star route trials," the term has been a thoroughly recognized one. The exact definition of a "star route," according to the Second Assistant Postmaster General, "is a post route on which the mails are carried under a contract awarded to the lowest bidder tendering sufficient guarantees for faithful performance, without other reference to the mode of transportation than that may be necessary to provide for due celerity, certainty and security" thereof."

**Electricity in the Earth.**  
Take up a spade, turn up a small quantity of soil, hold a portion in your hand, hold it to your ear, then smell it. You will observe first a slight motion, hear a faint sound as of the moving of distant timber, and readily notice the odor of heat. Do you know that the forces held in your hand are from electricity? That the earth for three feet deep is alive with the invisible power and forms the secret of vegetable life? Waves of electricity are constantly passing through the soil in unseen billows, thus keeping the soil from souring, as the billows of the ocean keep the waters from becoming stagnant. To demonstrate this fact, go to some rock-bound pool, dip out a small quantity of the polluted water, place it in a bottle, cork and set aside in a warm place for a short time. Then take the bottle into a dark room, shake the bottle, draw out the cork, and you will see tiny forks of blue lightning shoot out from the bottle, and if you keep perfectly quiet you will hear faint muttering like thunder. This comes from the flint-like rocks preventing the unbroken flow of electricity through the soil, and from the air becoming charged and emptying itself into the water.

Electricity, as is being gradually shown, is fire—the fire of friction, if you will, the first known by the inhabitants of our globe. Look at an arc lamp and see its combined sparks as they emit from the carbons so swiftly that they are taken for a regular flame of eye-bedazzling light. In the ages to come, the charge of electricity will keep on accumulating until some commotion of the earth will cause it to ignite, when, in the twinkling of an eye, our world, with all it contains, will be enveloped and consumed by a conflagration that will startle if not frighten the inhabitants of other planets as they look down upon the flaming mass and see burn up one of the greatest works of the Almighty's creation.

**Mysterious Timbuctoo.**  
"Timbuctoo the Mysterious," as revealed to the modern world by M. Felix Dubois, the French explorer, who is the first white man to return with a definite account of this strange realm of the Niger, proves to be the most romantic spot of the Dark Continent. Behind the ramparts of Saharan sands has nestled throughout all these centuries a hidden civilization that can trace its beginnings back to the old Mohammedan days of glory for Africa. Jenne, too, "the jewel of the Valley of the Niger," after which the whole Guinea coast has been named, preserves an even older civilization—that which flourished in the Nile Valley ere the fanatical Arabs drove the native race of Songhais thence.—Philadelphia Record.

**Flood Sufferers.**  
The pupils of the Walnut Hills High School are showing great sympathy for the sufferers from the Mississippi flood. The C grade girls in Miss Magurk's room have contributed a substantial box of clothing, which will be forwarded to the stricken district. Their good example is being imitated by the other classes and a generous supply will be the result.

**Should Visit the Country.**  
Some of the Boston schoolmarmes need an occasional rural outing. One of them placed this problem on the blackboard: "If a hen lays three eggs a day, how long will it take to lay thirty eggs?"

**Fashion Not a**  
Checked taffets in black, white and red are most desirable.

Smocking is revived for children's frocks. It is most attractive in the lighter weaves of silk.

Tartan plaid silks are used for wide draped belts on both day and evening gowns.

Bugle beads and blonde lace have come back from the past, with a claim for consideration.

Every morning for five years past, in coming to work, we have met a certain girl on a certain street who was going to her work. We would like to know how many more years we will be required to meet her before seeing her every day will have been sufficient to constitute an introduction. After we had met her four years, we raised our hat one morning, but she looked so shocked that we have felt humiliated ever since.

I believe my prompt use of Piso's Cure prevented quick consumption.—Mrs. Lucy Wallace, Marquette, Kans., Dec. 12, '95.

A real thrifty woman thinks that it is economy to swallow the medicine left in the house by a case of sickness, if it is needed or not.

A man who has a great business to attend to never has the time to acquire the business air that men enjoy who have no business.

People with hair that is continually falling out, or that is bald, can stop the falling, and get a good growth of hair by using Hall's Hair Renewer.

**The Burglar's Joke.**

A story is going the round in uptown in which a facetious burglar figures, to the discomfort and yet the relief of a gentleman who lives in the vicinity of Eighteenth and Wallace streets. The residence was closed during Easter, the entire family having gone to Atlantic City. When they returned the house was discovered to have been broken into, and everything was turned topsy-turvy. The most careful search, however, failed to disclose where anything had been stolen, and the supposition was that the thieves had been frightened of while at their work. But the true facts were developed when a carefully worded and well written note was found upon the dining room table. In this epistle, the facetious burglar had taken the pains to assure the owner of the property that nothing had been taken away. "We have tested your silverware," the note explained, "and find it to be plated. Your curtains are of an inferior quality, and the jewelry, such as your wife and daughters possess, is scarcely worth carrying off. We had expected better things of you." Although, gratefully relieved, the gentleman of the house could not conceal his chagrin, and now that the story has leaked out, he doesn't like it a bit.—Philadelphia Record.

**A Queer Vice.**

The fire insurance companies writes James P. ought to get reading in bed made a penal offense. It is a habit that grows upon people, like drinking at last, however tired they are, they can not get to sleep without reading—a thing which ought to be punished in itself as an insult to literature. Lord Alvanley was so well-known a slave to the habit that a servant was always placed at his bedroom door, with orders not to leave till his light was out. He himself had two methods of extinguishing it. He threw things at the candle as it stood on the floor, or simply put it under his bolster.

A truly great man is one who knows how to sleep without passing around his hat.

**Hall's Catarrh Cure**  
Is taken internally. Price 75 cents.

Two or three thicknesses of newspapers laid on the floor before laying matting will treble the length of life of the matting.

Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c bottles.

You often hear of "sure signs" of approaching age; why should people pay heed to signs when they have birthdays?

**AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS.**

WE ARE ASSERTING IN THE COURTS OUR RIGHT TO THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE WORD "CASTORIA," AND "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," AS OUR TRADE MARK.

I, DR. SAMUEL PITCHER, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," the same that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* wrapper. This is the original "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. LOOK CAREFULLY at the wrapper and see that it is the kind you have always bought *Chas. H. Fletcher* on the and has the signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company of which Chas. H. Fletcher is President.

March 8, 1897. Samuel Pitcher, D.

**Do Not Be Deceived.**  
Do not endanger the life of your child by accepting a cheap substitute which some druggist may offer you (because he makes a few more pennies on it), the ingredients of which even he does not know.

"The Kind You Have Always Bought" BEARS THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE OF *Chas. H. Fletcher*

Insist on Having The Kind That Never Failed You.

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, 27 MURRAY STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

**Josh Billings' Philosophy.**

I would rather undertake to make two average pedigrees for myself than to watch one that I had from a dead grandfather and keep it in decent repair.

A jest is often mistaken for humor, and even wit; but there is a much difference—az and the tune that comes out of it.

Young man, the citizens of the world are watching you, not so much to see you reach the top of the ladder, as to see you fall off, and perhaps sprain your ankle.

**Shake Into Your Shoes**  
Allen's Foot-Ease, a powder for the feet. It cures painful, swollen, smarting feet, and instantly takes the sting out of corns and bunions. It's the greatest comfort discovery of the age. Allen's Foot-Ease makes tight-fitting or new shoes feel easy. It is a certain cure for sweating, callous and hot, tired, aching feet. Try it to-day. Sold by all druggists and shoe stores. By mail for 25 cents, in stamps. Trial package FREE. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

Chatelaines are degenerating. A brass chain with any sort of dangling ornament now passes muster for the real article.

**BURLINGTON ROUTE**

Only \$22.50 to San Francisco. June 29 to July 3 account National Convention Christian Endeavorers. Special trains. Through tourist and palace sleepers. Stop-overs allowed at and west of Denver. Return via Portland, Yellowstone Park and Black Hills if desired.

Endeavorers and their friends who take the Burlington Route are guaranteed a quick, cool, comfortable journey, fine scenery (by daylight) and first class equipment.

Bertha reserved and descriptive literature furnished on request. See nearest B & M. R. ticket agent or write to J. Francis, G. P. A., Burlington Route, Omaha, Neb.

People who borrow trouble are always grieved away.

**Man Straw for Sheep.**

It has been well attested that bean straw is a valuable food for sheep that they are fond of it. The bean, like clover, is a leguminous plant, and many farmers say that the straw, though coarse and harsh, has nearly as much nutrition as clover hay. It makes a very rich manure when fed to either a sheep or cow. This is shown by its rotting very fast when piled and giving off the strong smell of ammonia, which comes from feeding any manure rich in nitrogenous nutrition.

**Washing Blankets.**  
Blankets which have been used all winter, no matter how white they may look, are never clean, and should not be put away for the summer without being washed. Many housekeepers satisfy themselves by shaking and airing their blankets, rather than risk spoiling them in washing. But this is an error, for if the work is properly done no shrinking will take place, and the softness and color may be retained for years. The most necessary thing in washing blankets is to have plenty of soft water and good soap. Inferior soap is the real cause of the damage done woolen goods in washing.

When ready to begin the work shake the blankets free of dust, fill a tub nearly full of soft hot water. Dissolve a third of a cake of Ivory soap in it. Put in one blanket at a time. Dip up and down and wash gently with the hands. Never use soap on the blankets, or wash them on the washboard. After the blankets are clean rinse them in warm water until free of suds. Add a little bluing to the hot water. Shake and sponge clean, and hang on the line until dry; then take down, fold and pack in a box and set away in a cool room. Blankets thus washed will retain their original freshness, as well as wear three times as long as if put away soiled year after year.

ELIZA R. PARKER.

We all live in glass houses.

What's the best disinfectant and remedy for skin eruptions and defects? Glenn's sulphur soap. It's Hair and Whisker soap, black or white, 5c.

A bad reputation costs entirely too much.

**Motherhood.**

A mother who is in good physical condition transmits to her children the blessings of a good constitution. The child fairly drinks in health from its mother's robust constitution before birth, and from a healthy mother's milk after.

Is not that an incentive to prepare for a healthy maternity?

Do you know the meaning of what is popularly called those "longings," or cravings, which beset so many women during pregnancy? There is something lacking in the mother's blood. Nature cries out and will be satisfied at all hazards.

One woman wants sour things, another wants sweets, another wants salt things, and so on.

The real need all the time is to enrich the blood so as to supply nourishment for another life, and to build up the entire generative system, so that the birth may be possible and successful.

If expectant mothers would fortify themselves with Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, which for twenty years has sustained thousands of women in this condition, there would be fewer disappointments at birth, and they would not experience those annoying "longings."

In the following letter to Mrs. Pinkham, Mrs. Whitney demonstrates the power of the Compound in such cases. She says:

"From the time I was sixteen years old till I was twenty-three, I was troubled with weakness of the kidneys and terrible pains when my monthly periods came on. I made up my mind to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and was soon relieved. After I was married, the doctor said I would never be able to go my full time and have a living child, as I was constitutionally weak. I had lost a baby at seven months and a half. The next time I commenced at once and continued to take your Compound through the period of pregnancy, and I said then, if I went my full time and the baby lived to be three months old, I should send a letter to you. My baby is now seven months old and is as healthy and hearty as one could wish."

"I am so thankful that I used your medicine, for it gave me the robust health to transmit to my child. I cannot express my gratitude to you; I never expected such a blessing. Praise God for Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and may others who are suffering do as I did and find relief, and may many homes be brightened as mine has been."—MRS. L. Z. WHITNEY, 5 George St., E. Somerville, Mass.

"Say Aye 'No' and Ye'll Ne'er Be Married." Don't Refuse All Our Advice to Use

**SAPOLIO**

\$75 RIDE A CRESCENT BICYCLE \$50  
Western Wheel Works  
MAKERS OF  
CHICAGO ILLINOIS  
CATALOGUE FREE

**CURE YOURSELF!**  
Use Big G for unsatisfactory discharges, inflammation, irritations or ulcerations of the mucous membrane. Painless, and not irritating. THE EVANS CHEMICAL CO., gent. of poisonous. CINCINNATI, O. S. A. Sold by Druggists, or sent in plain wrapper, by express, prepaid, for \$1.00, or 3 bottles, \$2.75. Circular sent on request.

**ROOF IT WITH FAY'S MANILLA ROOFING**—No ar. cheap, strong best. WRITE FOR SAMPLE. FAY MANILLA ROOFING CO., Camden, N. J.

**GIRLS AND BOYS!** you like pleasant work with good pay during vacation? For full particulars address, with stamp, B. H. WHITAKER, Marshall, Mich.

**DR. ISAAC THOMPSON'S EYE WATER**

**PATENTS** H. S. WILSON & CO., Wash. D.C. No charge till patent obtained. 80-page book free.

N. N. U. No. 445-98. York, Neb. WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS please say you saw the advertisement in this paper.

**WHEAT CURE FOR** CHICKEN CHLORAL ALBES FALLS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists. CONSUMPTION.