

## Whether Common or Not.



## Disrupted the Society.

The Boomville Society of Scientific Research is no more. Being interested in learning the cause of its demise I asked Sam Ricketts to tell me the whole story.

"Well, sir; when we organized that air society we wus plum' shore it wus goin' t' be a educatin' infloence in th' social life o' Boomville. Our young folks tuk right hold on it, an' we ol' folks wus not fur behin'. Mighty interestin' sessions wus held. Fust we had a magic lantern feller come down frum Boston t' show us what kind o' bugs an' things we wus takin' into our stumicks every time we et or drunk. Some o' his picterers wus horrifyin', but as we wus there t' learn we managed t' stand it.

"Next we had a feller come down from New York an' feel all th' bumps on our heads. After he left we wus convinced that Boomville contained more future presidents, senators, congressmen and justices o' th' peace than ary other similar arear o' territory in th' republic.

"By this time th' society wus doin' amazin' fine and we wus gittin' applications fur membership frum all over th' township. Then we had lectures on astronomy, sociology an' several other 'ologies, an' we wus shorely gittin' headachy with our sooperabundance o' scientific knowledge.

"Then we had a feller come down frum Washington to give us a lecture on chemistry. He brought a lot o' tools along an' said he was goin' t' give us some demonstrashuns. That was th' last meetin' o' th' Society fur Scientific Research.

"Th' feller done some purty tricks with diffrunt kinds o' powders an' sich which stunk up the hall considerable, but we didn't mind that. Then he said somethin' about 'chemical affinity,' whatever that may be, an' said he would illustrate it by showin' what affinity wus. Said oxygen and hidergin had a chemical affinity an' when combined made water. Some things had no chemical affinity, he said. F'r instance, he said, oil an' water won't mix.

"Jus' then Bill Swiggers begin' t' laff, and he laffed so hard we started t' put him out. Bill's frien's come to his assistance an' th' meetin' ended in a fight. We ain't had no meetin's since."

"Who is Bill Swiggers?" I asked.

"Don't know Bill Swiggers? Why—to be shore you don't. He come here after you went away. Bill is th' local agent o' th' Standard Oil company."



## Will It Come to This?

"William, have you locked the rear door?"

"Yes, sir."

"Have you fastened all the windows?"

"Yes, sir."

"Have you put the cover on the sugar barrel, looked at the spigot of the molasses barrel, put the cheese under cover, put the butter in the ice box and brought in the front display?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then put the potatoes in the burglar-proof safe and we'll close up for the night."



## The Literary Struggle.

"Now, John Swithers, you stay home tonight and take care of the baby. Johnnie Swithers, if you don't stop driving tacks in the wall I'll box your ears. Want to go t' lodge? Not much, you're not. You went to lodge three weeks ago tonight. Now take that baby and rock her, and be careful how you hold her, too. Mary Ellen Swithers, you sit right down on that stool and don't you dare move for twenty minutes. Susan, you bring me a pen and ink and then get all the children ready for bed. An hour till bed-time? That makes no difference. I can not have you disturbing me. You have them all ready for bed before I get my

writing gown on. You hear me? All right; now mind.

Then Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Swithers went upstairs to don her writing habiliments.

"I guess," remarked Mr. Swithers as he sadly rocked the baby to and fro, "that your mother is preparing to write her monthly letter on 'How to Make Home Happy' for the Ladies' Own Companion."



## How?

Pray tell us, yachting experts, please,

Who on the race have reckoned,  
How can Sir Thomas in the race  
Come out a-whooping in first place  
When he sails Shamrock II?



## Sure Sign.

"I'm afraid Bilkins is afflicted with paresis?"

"What makes you think so?"

"He met Wilkins on the street yesterday. Wilkins was wheeling his baby around the block. And Bilkins, whose baby is the same age as Wilkins' baby, actually admitted that the Wilkins baby was better looking than his own."

"O, cheer up! That's not a sign of paresis. That's a sign Wilkins is going to run for some county office."



## Our Beautiful Language.

A modern young maid of Scoharie  
Said, "No, sir; I never shall marie."  
But a man with the dough  
Overcame the maid's nough,  
And single no longer she'd tarie.



## Biffs.

Home and hate begin and end with the same letters; the difference is in what is between them. Praying and doing are the piston and eccentric that keep reforms moving.

Some men bestow on others that which they do not need or want for themselves, and then pride themselves on their charity.

Laughter is the leaven that makes a world light.



## To Be Sure.

"What's the use of working like a slave? The world owes me a living."

"Correct, old chap. But a man's got to be a mighty good collector to get it."

—Will M. Maupin.

## Items of Interest.



Japan has been cremating her dead for 1,200 years.

In Prussia all railway return tickets are good for forty-five days.

Russia has recently suffered a loss of \$50,000,000 by forest fires.

The Minnesota output of butter will be larger this year than ever before.

It costs Baltimore \$300 a year to display flags on the municipal buildings.

There are more telephones in New York City than in the whole of France.

It is estimated that the electrical apparatus used in mining is worth \$100,000,000.

An acre of bananas will produce 133 times, in weight, as much as an acre of wheat.

Ocean steamships are now as regular in their arrival and departure as railroad trains.

The olive orchards of Arizona are said to be yielding a fruit superior to the imported.

Since 1871 the number of blind people in Germany has decreased from 85 to 67 per 100,000.

Dr. Brubacher, a German physician, declares

that 72.5 per cent of dyspeptics have unsound teeth.

Athens, Greece, has a weekly newspaper written entirely in verse, even to the advertisements.

The largest theatre in the world is the Theatre Francais, Paris. It covers three acres of ground.

The Indian Territory produced 1,900,127 tons of coal in 1900. The output is increasing each year.

In the United States the electrical motor business is increasing at the rate of \$150,000,000 a year.

A French savant declares that 199 men in every 100,000 engaged in military duty become insane.

The street railways of the country use electrical appliances representing an investment of \$1,800,000,000.

In eastern Siberia soup and milk are sold by the pound. The purchaser must melt them before they can be used.

The people of Victoria are talking of holding an exposition to celebrate the anniversary of the discovery of gold in 1851.

Statistics prove that the taking of human life, either by murder or suicide, is 50 per cent greater in summer than in winter.

The artesian well at Grenelle, near Paris, is the largest in Europe. It flows 700,000 gallons of water every twenty-four hours.

German trade with the Philippines amounted to \$1,499,400 in 1890—nearly treble the trade of the United States with the islands.

It has not been 100 years since the pillory and the whipping post were to be seen standing in the streets of Boston and New York.

New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania pay their governors \$10,000 a year. Oregon and Vermont pay their governors \$1,500 a year.

Employes in the Lynn, Mass., shoe factories contemplate asking employers to continue the Saturday half holiday through the winter.

New York and Pennsylvania pay members of the legislature \$1,500 a year each. Maine pays \$150 a year. Nebraska pays \$5 a day for sixty days.

Justices of the supreme court in New York City receive \$7,500 a year more salary than the justices of the supreme court of the United States.

Centerville, the famous village near the scene of the battles of Bull Run, is not growing rapidly. In forty years only two houses have been erected.

Officers of the Mexican army have been notified that if caught in any of the gambling houses in the City of Mexico they will be discharged from the army.

Seventy-seven per cent of the women who recently took the civil service examination at Washington passed successfully. Only 62 per cent of the men passed.

A year ago night schools were established in Honolulu for the purpose of teaching English to Hawaiians. They have been abolished because of non-attendance.

The shah of Persia and his sons have a royal prerogative which they guard with jealous care. The long tails of their horses are dyed for six inches at their tips.

An exhibition of rat traps is soon to be held in Copenhagen. The rat plague in Denmark has become so great that a war of extermination has been determined upon.

There is an organization of commercial travelers in Chicago known as the "Gideons." The organization has 1,500 members, none of whom drink, smoke or play cards.

Some things which are deemed household necessities in most American families have no market whatever in France or southern Europe. Among them may be mentioned refrigerators, rocking chairs and kitchen ranges with hot water backs.