

BLAZED TREES AND THEIR USES

Very few persons have any adequate notion of the meaning of the phrase "blazed" trail, as so often used in fiction having to do with the great west.

In earlier days, when large portions of the country were covered with forests and there were few roads, travel was often only possible by way of paths "blazed" through the woods. To blaze, in the woodsman's sense, is to strike a chip from the sides of trees, so that the line of marks shall indicate the direction of the trail.

In blazing for a path small trees were marked, but in blazing for the bounds of a lot or town, or for a farm line, larger trees were usually selected, the blaze being made about breast-high. When, however, as was often the case, the blazing was

done in winter on deep snow, by men traveling on snow-shoes, the mark was necessarily higher up. When such a line is traveled in the summer, especially after some years, the marks are sometimes found high up on the trunks, and are likely to escape the eye of the inexperienced. As many of them will also be partially overgrown, the task of the surveyor who goes over one of these old lines is not always easy.

If the boundary line passes to the left of a tree selected for blazing, the cut is made upon the right side. If the line goes to the right, the tree is blazed upon the left side.

In running a boundary at a corner, where two lines come together, either a "monument" is erected—a stake supported by four boulders—or a tree is blazed on all four sides to indicate as nearly as possible the turning point of the line.

The permanency of the record made by blazing trees is quite remarkable. It is a matter of fact that in many cases of disputed lines or boundaries of lots in forest lands the courts have held the record of the blazes as sufficient and reliable, where carefully drawn plans and formally attested title deeds have been set aside. The wound of a blazed tree heals over, but never so completely that the scar may not be readily recognized by the experienced woodsman; hence it follows that so long as the blazed tree escapes fire and the ax of the lumberman, so long it remains a faithful record of the line as surveyed. It will not lie, nor will argument or cross-examination refute its testimony.

Blazed trees also fix dates almost as accurately as they preserve boundaries. The outer shell which has grown over the scar is cut away, and the rings in the bark testify to the number of years that have elapsed since the blaze was made.—Illustrated Sunday Magazine.

DEATH IS PAINLESS

The fear of death, which has been so enormously exploited in dramatic literature, sacred and otherwise, is said to be almost without existence in sickness. Most patients have lost it completely by the time they become seriously ill.

Death and sleep are both painless, according to Dr. Woods Hutchinson in the American Magazine, and cause neither fear nor anxiety by their approach. It is one of the most merciful things in nature that the overwhelming majority of the poisons which destroy life, whether they are those of infectious diseases or those which are elaborated from the body's own waste products, act as narcotics and abolish consciousness long before the end comes.

While death is not in any sense analogous to sleep, it resembles it to the extent that it is in the vast majority of instances not only not painful but welcome. Pain-racked and fever-scorched patients long for death as the wearied toiler longs for sleep.

While many of the processes which lead to death are painful, death itself is painless, natural, like the fading of a flower or the falling of a leaf. Our dear ones drift out on the ebbing tide of life without fear, without pain, without regret, save for those they leave behind. When death comes close enough so that we can see the eyes behind the mask his face becomes as welcome as that of his "twin brother," sleep.

CONSUMPTION AND THE HOME

The tuberculosis congress, in its sessions at Washington, made evident the fact that the treatment of consumption is largely a matter between the patient and the house-keeper.

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Charcoal Removes Stomach Poisons

Pure Charcoal Will Absorb One Hundred Times Its Volume in Poisonous Gases

Charcoal was made famous by the old monks of Spain, who cured all manner of stomach, liver, blood and bowel troubles by this simple remedy.

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other members of the family and recovery for the victim are dependent on the thorough, persistent care given by the woman at the head of the home. In the vast majority of cases she is not a trained nurse, nor can she afford to employ one. Perhaps her hands are already overburdened with the work of her household. But when she is once informed as to the great white plague, she will discover that her one imperative duty is the fight with that foe.

One of the papers read by a woman at the congress was entitled, "The Unteachable Consumptive." It is unfortunately one of the symptoms

of tuberculosis that its victim is too hopeful to be cautious and too sensitive to be easily taught. The wife or sister or mother must be the more wise and firm on that account.

The boards of health, the doctors, and the societies for the care of consumptives are ready all over our country to give information as to the protective measures necessary for sick and well. Now let us see to it that our home-makers use this available knowledge intelligently and faithfully, until consumption goes to join smallpox and cholera in the limbo of controllable and controlled diseases.—Youth's Companion.