

Tramps.

"Tramp" names a small army of big and little sinners. Among the thousands of vagrants are criminals and degenerates of the worst kind, whose deeds have made the word "tramp" a terror to women in lonely regions. Probably the rank and file of the wilfully unemployed are the "Wandering Willies"—dear to comic papers—whose sin is merely an exaggeration of the indolence which is born in us all. These amiable vagabonds who enjoy a vacation of 12 months a year have had an unhindered road and plenty of free food in a broad, generous country. But the day has come when "Meandering Mike" must find other occupation than picking the flowers of the century plants. Systematic charity and criminology are beating the bush for him and his companions, and driving them into the corals of civilization. At the national conference of charities and correction the committee on vagrants considered the united duty of state, town and individual to exterminate the tramp nuisance. Because the tramp passes on after a full meal we do not feel the responsibility for him which we feel for offenders who abide in our community. Towns have contented themselves with sending the vagrant across the lines to the next town, which is like throwing rubbish over the fence into our neighbor's back yard. It is a mistake to feed a vagrant unless he pays for his food with a fair amount of work, says the Youth's Companion. The great remedy for the disease of vagrancy is cord-wood, which should be administered in allopathic doses. Finally, since life as a tramp depends on easy transit, the railroads need the sanction of severe laws in dealing with those who steal rides. Cut the vagrant off from unearned food and transportation, and the "hobo" will disappear.

Dr. Lantz of the national biological bureau has been studying rats and presents appalling figures as to their numbers and the extent of their destructiveness. He thinks the recent estimate by the department of agriculture that they do \$100,000,000 worth of damage in this country annually is a conservative estimate—this damage including the results of disease conveyed by them into human habitations, fires and flooded houses caused by their gnawing and foods polluted as well as consumed by them. No systematic or scientific movement to rid the country of the pests has been undertaken, but in view of this destructiveness concerted efforts to exterminate them will eventually have to be made. Prof. Lantz has found, after experimenting, that the cheapest and most effective way to get rid of them is to use barytes. The mineral produces slow death, and the rats leave the premises to seek water.

It will soon be against the law in Germany to take without permission a snapshot at a person or his building or his ox or his ass. People of Germany must be overmodest or else afraid of their faces. When the amateur photographer in this country goes out to take a picture of a landscape or a building so many people happen along and stop accidentally in graceful poses in front of the camera that the picture when completed looks for all the world like a photograph of a crowd watching a ball game. Germany may be inaugurating a useful reform, but it looks strange that the camera should be banished, while the automobile is allowed to run at large. Judging from the number of accidents caused by the horseless wagons, it would be a good idea for everybody in Germany to be snaphotted as often as possible, so that their friends in after years could know what they looked like.

A "lady stenographer" and a "lady music teacher" fought four bloody rounds, Marquis of Queensberry rules, at Davenport, Ia., for the purpose of deciding which should be entitled to the attentions of a certain young man. We have not learned his name, but it is perhaps fair to infer that he is "a perfect gent."

King Alfonso's son has been made colonel of one of Spain's regiments, and it is expected that he will rise so rapidly that by the time he is able to walk he may be a major general. Well may we subscribe to the theory that they can't keep a good boy down.

In view of the frequency with which Bright's disease is reported as a cause of death it looks as if it would presently take rank with tuberculosis as a plague to whose abatement medical science should especially direct its energies.

Not even a ghost can get a drink in Montana under the new law preventing saloons coming within half a mile of cemeteries. In such circumstances we fancy that dying will become very unpopular.

A SIMPLE REMEDY

ONE OF THE WAYS TO CURTAIL OPERATIONS OF TRUSTS.

HOME PATRONAGE PRINCIPLES

Systems That Oppose the Advancement of Rural Towns and Agricultural Communities.

Never before have the people of the country been so awakened to the importance of home protection as they are at present. The wide knowledge spread by means of the public press as to the operations of the great trusts and how the masses are made to serve the more favored classes is having its effect. The residents of agricultural communities are beginning to realize the dangers of business concentration in sections of the country dominated by the capitalistic classes. They are fast becoming aroused to the truth that this concentration is a menace to the prosperity of the nation, and directly affects every producer, every laborer and every citizen of the country who depends upon his work for support.

The building up of great trusts commenced less than a score of years ago. At the same time there were other systems inaugurated that tended towards robbing the home towns of business and concentrating this business in the large cities. One of these systems, most notable in its injurious operations and its force to draw wealth from communities where it is produced, is the mail-order system of business. None will say that this system is illegitimate, but no economist can show wherein its principles are sound. By the system communities are impoverished and kept from progressing. He who will give study to the basis of country development will see that it is the labor employed that not alone enhances the value of the farm lands, but builds up the towns. When there is little to employ this labor, the result is depression, stagnation and non-progress. The great evil of the mail-order system which has grown up, is its taking away the means that small towns have of employing labor, and the drawing from each community the profits in commercial transactions that represents the wealth that is procured. It is sophistry to claim that the resident of a community who sends his money to a foreign town and saves the ten per cent. that may represent the home merchant's profits, is not a factor in impoverishing the community. While the saving may remain in the community the employment of labor essential to every business is given to the foreign place, and the home town is robbed of this employment giving power.

Every dollar that is sent away from a community where it is produced either by the tilling of the soil, by the growing of live stock, by the work of the day laborer, or by the storekeeper, impoverishes the community to that extent, and this dollar ceases to be any factor in the advancement of the community. Presuming that there are in a community 2,000 people, suppose that each one of these 2,000 people send away to some foreign place \$50 per year. This in the aggregate is \$100,000 per year that goes to the support of a foreign town. Suppose that each one sending his money away saves ten per cent.; the savings for a year would be \$5, and in ten years \$50. Look at the other side—\$100,000 business per year would support in the home town five good stores. Each one of these stores would give employment to a number of hands. The small percentage of profit that would be made would be retained in the community and be invested in new enterprises. Year after year there would be a continual increase in the prosperity of the town, and the building up process would add to the value of all the town property, and to the farms within the trading radius of the town. While by sending away the farmer would in ten years' time save but \$50, whereas by patronizing the home town the profits that would come to him in substantial increase in real estate values would be ten times this amount. The building up of the town would improve the home market, affording every producer on the farms better prices for all his produce.

Then there is another thing, the town supports the churches, the schools and other public institutions. The efficiency of these institutions are dependent upon the life and activity of the town. Where poor towns exist, the schools do not receive the support that is necessary to make them good, neither are the churches of the high standard they should be. Home patronage means good schools, good churches and all conveniences that add to the pleasure and enlightenment of a people.

All the residents of a community have common interests in it—the banker, the lawyer, the doctor, the merchant, the farmer, the day laborer—all have equal interests. Thus we find that a community is in reality a large cooperative assembly. What is of interest to one is of material interest to the other. But more important than all is that by a practice of the home patronage principle the possibilities of building up trusts for the control of industries of the country are reduced to the minimum; in fact, a strict adherence to this simple principle of building up and protecting home industries precludes the building up of harmful trusts and combinations.

D. M. CARR.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.

Two Vital Things for the Welfare of the Masses.

There is wisdom in the old slogan, "A school on every hill top and a church in every valley." Citizens of the United States may well feel proud of the great educational system which makes it possible for all classes to acquire the proper mental cultivation. They may also feel proud of the religious liberty that each and every citizen enjoys. There is no established church to interfere with the free exercise of conscience, neither is there any law that interferes with the exercise of religious belief.

The United States can be looked upon as a nation where schools and churches flourish to the fullest. The public school system is one of the most perfect that civilization has yet evolved. Of course there are communities where local conditions are not so favorable for schools as other places. It will be observed that the more important is the city or the town, the more advanced are the educational facilities offered the people. The residents of rural communities have their state or district school, the curriculums of which are restricted. It is to the nearby town that the children who are residents of the farm districts must look for their higher education, which is a necessary preparation for entry into college, and for business life. How important it is, then, to the resident of the farm district that his home town be an active place and of sufficient business importance to justify the maintenance of a high class school! It can be seen how each resident of a farming community should be interested in the home town and all that pertains to its upbuilding. If on no other account, purely on account of the educational facilities.

Running parallel in importance with the schools are the churches. The better the home town the better are the church buildings, and the greater is the talent that fills the pulpit. Both schools and churches have educational qualities that should not be lightly valued. They mean the highest mental and moral development, and upon this development depends the good citizenship and the advancement and perpetuation of the nation.

OVERLOOKED OPPORTUNITIES.

Chances in Average Small Town for Profitably Engaging in Business.

According to the United States census of 1900 there was produced in the United States 1,293,662,433 dozen eggs. The same statistics give the annual production of poultry at 250,623,114. The butter made on farms each year is in excess of 1,000,000,000 pounds. The cheese made on farms averages about 20,000,000 pounds annually. These statistics are interesting, and with each farmer growing poultry and eggs and making butter and cheese, it hardly seems possible that such combinations as dairy trusts and egg and poultry trusts could exist, but that they do is nevertheless a fact.

Every small town in a farming district can command sufficient butter, egg and poultry trade to support a prosperous exclusive produce establishment. The practice has generally obtained in agricultural districts of storekeepers in various lines taking farmers' produce in exchange for goods. The produce thus received by merchants is forwarded to the commission houses in the large city, and these houses are factors that make it possible to maintain trusts in the produce business. It appears that if each town had its exclusive produce establishment to buy what the farmer has to sell instead of the produce going through the local stores, that better prices could be paid the farmers and the business made a most profitable one if rightly conducted.

According to the natural laws of business industry succeeds best where advantages are most abundant. Thus it seems that the produce offers a most excellent field in the majority of agricultural towns.

GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT.

Millions of Dollars Annually Saved to the Farmers of the United States.

One of the most important movements that has been inaugurated of recent years, and which has resulted in wonderful benefit to the people is the good roads movement. Within the United States there are approximately about 8,000,000 farmers. If during a year each of these farmers can be saved \$10 in time, or in wear and tear upon horses and wagons by means of improved roads, it means a saving of \$80,000,000 annually; but the truth is that the improved roads that have been built up the past half dozen years through agitation of the good roads movement saves each farmer in the land from \$50 to \$100. Thus it can be seen that the savings brought about through this movement aggregate hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

Good roads are important to the progressive town. This fact has become so recognized that wherever there exists a live agricultural town its citizens will be found to be staunch advocates of road improvement, and there is a civic pride and friendly competition in the matter of having good roads leading to the towns. The work of road improvement has only fairly begun. A number of state legislatures have taken up the work and during the next dozen years great changes will be wrought as to the building and maintenance of public highways.

Gave Much Work to Women. The invention of the typewriter has given work to more than 1,000,000 women.

ARE PHYSICIANS' PRESCRIPTIONS NOSTRUMS?

To one not qualified, and few laymen are, to discriminate intelligently between physicians' prescriptions, proprietary medicines and nostrums, it may seem little short of a crime to hint even that physicians' prescriptions are in any manner related to nostrums; nevertheless, an impartial examination of all the facts in the case leads irresistibly to the conclusion that every medicinal preparation compounded and dispensed by a physician is, in the strict sense of the word, a nostrum, and that the average, ready-prepared proprietary remedy is superior to the average specially-prepared physicians' prescription.

What is a nostrum? According to the Standard Dictionary a nostrum is "a medicine the composition of which is kept a secret." Now, when a physician compounds and dispenses with his own hands a remedy for the treatment of a disease—and it is authoritatively stated that probably 60 per cent. of all physicians' prescriptions in this country are so dispensed—the names and quantities of the ingredients which constitute the remedy are not made known to the patient. Hence, since its composition is kept a secret by the physician, the remedy or prescription is unquestionably, in the true meaning of the word, a Simonsium nostrum. Furthermore, the prescription compounded by the average physician is more than likely to be a perfect jumble—replete with therapeutic, physiologic and chemical incompatibilities and bearing all the earmarks of pharmaceutical incompetency; for it is now generally admitted that unless a physician has made a special study of pharmacy and passed some time in a drug store for the purpose of gaining a practical knowledge of modern pharmaceutical methods, he is not fitted to compound remedies for his patients. Moreover, a physician who compounds his own prescriptions not only deprives the pharmacist of his just emoluments, but he endangers the lives of patients; for it is only by the detection and elimination of errors in prescriptions by clever, competent prescribers that the safety of the public can be effectually shielded from the criminal blunders of ignorant physicians.

Nor can it be said that the average physician is any more competent to formulate a prescription than he is to compound it. When memorized or directly copied from a book of "favorite prescriptions by famous physicians," or from some text-book or medical journal, the prescription may be all that it should be. It is only when the physician is required to originate a formula on the spur of the moment that his incompetency is distinctly evident. Seemingly, however, the physicians of the United States are little worse than the average British physician; for we find Dr. James Burnett, lecturer on Practical Materia Medica and Pharmacy, Edinburgh, lamenting in the Medical Magazine the passing of the prescription and bemoaning the fact that seldom does he find a "final man" able to devise a prescription even in "good contracted Latin."

And what, it may be asked, is the status of the written prescription—the prescription that is compounded and dispensed by the pharmacist—is it, too, a nostrum? It may be contended that the patient, with the written formula in his possession, may learn the character of the remedy prescribed. So, possibly, he might if he understood Latin and were a physician or a pharmacist, but as he usually possesses no professional training and cannot read Latin, the prescription is practically a dead secret to him. Furthermore, the average prescription is so badly written and so greatly abbreviated that even the pharmacist, skilled as he usually is in deciphering medical hieroglyphs, is constantly obliged to interview prescribers to find out what actually has been prescribed. It may also be contended, that inasmuch as the formula is known to both physician and pharmacist the prescription cannot therefore be a secret. But with equal truth it might be contended that the formula of any so-called nostrum is not a secret since it is known to both proprietor and manufacturer; for it must not be forgotten that, according to reliable authority, 95 per cent. of the proprietors of so-called patent medicines prepared in this country have their remedies made for them by large, reputable manufacturing pharmacists. But even should a patient be able to recognize the names of the ingredients mentioned in a formula he would only know half the story. It is seldom, for instance, that alcohol is specifically mentioned in a prescription, for it is usually masked in the form of tinctures and fluid extracts, as are a great many other substances. It is evident, therefore, that the ordinary formulated prescription is, to the average patient, little less than a secret remedy or nostrum.

On the other hand, the formulae of nearly all the proprietary medicines that are exploited exclusively to the medical profession as well as those of a large percentage of the proprietary remedies that are advertised to the public (the so-called patent medicines) are published in full. Under the Food and Drugs Act, every medicinal preparation entering interstate commerce is now required to have the proportion or quantity of alcohol, opium, cocaine and other habit-forming or harmful ingredients which it may contain plainly printed on the label. As physicians' prescriptions seldom or never enter interstate commerce they are practically exempt under the law. And if it be necessary for the public to know the composition of proprietary remedies, as is contended by those who through ig-

norance or for mercenary reasons are opposing the sale of all household remedies, why is it not equally necessary for patients to know the composition of the remedy prescribed by a physician? Does any sane person believe that the opium in a physician's prescription is less potent or less likely to create a drug habit than the opium in a proprietary medicine? As a matter of fact, more opium-addicts and cocaine-frenzy have been made through the criminal carelessness of ignorant physicians than by any other means.

Unquestionably, there are a number of proprietary remedies on the market the sales of which should be prohibited, and no doubt they will be when the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act are rigidly enforced; many are frauds, pure and simple, and some are decidedly harmful. Of the average proprietary remedy, however, it may truthfully be said that it is distinctly better than the average physicians' prescription; for not only is its composition less secret, but it is prepared for the proprietor by reputable manufacturing pharmacists in magnificently equipped laboratories and under the supervision and advice of able chemists, competent physicians and skillful pharmacists. It should not be considered strange, therefore, that so many physicians prefer to prescribe these ready-prepared proprietary remedies rather than trust those of their own devising.

JUST THE SAME AS CURRENCY.

Third Son Felt He Had Nothing to Reproach Himself with.

William Knoepfel, of St. Louis, has invented and hopes to patent a secret plowing method for the cure of baldness. "A genuine cure for baldness," said Mr. Knoepfel the other day, should make a man very rich. Why, men grow rich on fake cures. It is amazing, it really is, what fakes some of these cures are. Yet there's money in them." Mr. Knoepfel gave a loud, scornful laugh. "In their crookedness they remind me," he said, "of the third son of the old eccentric. Perhaps you have heard the story? Well, an old eccentric died and left his fortune equally to his three sons. But the will contained a strange proviso. Each heir was to place \$100 in the coffin immediately before the interment. A few days after the interment the three young men met and discussed the queer proviso and its execution. 'Well,' said the oldest son, 'my conscience is clear. I put my hundred in the coffin in clean, new notes.' 'My conscience is clear, too,' said the second son. 'I put my hundred in gold.' 'I, too, have nothing to reproach myself with,' said the third son. 'I had no cash at the time, though; so I wrote out a check for \$200 in poor, dear father's name, placed it in the coffin and took in change the \$200 in currency that I found there.'"

PUSHED THE BEAR ASIDE.

Surveyor Tells of Experience He Does Not Care to Repeat.

To walk right up to a monster bear and try to shove it out of the way and then escape without so much as a scratch is an experience of a lifetime. Harry I. Engelbright found it so a few days ago in Diamond canyon, above Washington, says a Nevada City correspondent of the Sacramento Bee. The young man, son of Congressman Engelbright, has just returned from the upper country, where he has been doing some surveying, and relates his thrilling experience. It was coming on dusk, at the close of the day's work. In the brush-lined trail he saw protruding what he thought were the hind quarters of some stray bovine. He walked up and gave the brute a shove. It came to its haunches with a snort that made his hair rise and caused him to beat a hasty retreat. The big brute looked around and then shuffled off into the woods. It was either asleep or else so busy eating ants from an old log that it failed to hear the young surveyor, whose footsteps were deadened by the thick carpet of pine needles. Later it was learned that the same bear, a monster cinnamon, had killed a dog earlier in the day. The dog ventured too close and with one blow of its paw the big beast sent it hurtling yards away, dead as a doornail.

Magnifying Choir Leader's Voice.

In the old village of Braybrook in Northamptonshire, England, is a monster trumpet, five feet in length, and having a bell-shaped end two feet one inch in diameter. The trumpet is made up of ten rings, which in turn are made up of smaller parts. The use of this trumpet—only four of the kind are known to exist at the present day—was to magnify the voice of the leader in the choir and summon the people to the church service. At the present time neither the choir nor the service is in need of this extraordinary "musical instrument," but the vicar of the church takes care of the ancient relic and is fond of showing it to all visitors.

Painfully Exact.

A New England man tells of a prosperous Connecticut farmer, painfully exact in money matters, who married a widow of Greenwich possessing in her own right the sum of \$10,000. Shortly after the wedding a friend met the farmer, to whom he offered congratulations, at the same time observing: "It's a good thing for you, Malachi, a marriage that means \$10,000 to you." "Not quite that, Bill," said the farmer, "not quite that." "Why," exclaimed the friend, "I understood there was every cent of \$10,000 in it for you!" "I had to pay \$2 for a marriage license," said Malachi.

AFFLICTED ONLY AT TIMES.

Good Reason for Capt. Bascomb's Intermittent Hearing.

When Capt. Bascomb had left his old friend, Capt. Somers, and the new school teacher sitting on the south porch, and had disappeared down the road, the young woman spoke of him with some curiosity. "I understand from Mrs. Bascomb that her husband was very deaf, 'almost stone-deaf,' she told me, 'I'm sure,'" said the school teacher. "But he seemed to hear all we said with perfect ease."

Capt. Somers leaned toward her and spoke in a low, cautious tone, although there was no eavesdropper to hear him. "Don't let Mrs. Bascomb know it," he said, hurriedly. "He does seem to hear pretty well when she ain't round, but none of us folks ever let on to her. She's a good woman as ever lived, but a most tremendous bossier and an everlastin' talker. An' we all think that Gersh Bascomb begun to realize ten years ago that if he didn't want to be harried right off'n the face o' the earth, the thing for him to do was to grow deaf, gradual, but steady—an' he's done it, to all intents an' purposes, ma'am!" — Youth's Companion.

The Manchester canal was built at a cost of \$75,000,000 to reduce freight rates for a distance of 35 miles, and, while it did not prove a good interest bearing investment on such a large expenditure, its indirect and more permanent benefits are said to have warranted it.

Germany has 3,000 miles of canal, carefully maintained, besides 7,000 miles of other waterway. France, with an area less than we would consider a large state, has 3,000 miles of canal; and in the northern part, where the canals are most numerous, the railways are more prosperous. England, Germany, France, Holland and Belgium are all contemplating further extension and improvement of their canal systems.—Century Magazine.

A Country Marvel.

The little fresh air boy was comfortably quartered in a farm house near the salt water for his summer's outing. The first day he strolled down the road to the marshes and he stared in astonishment at the cat-tails growing there. Then turning around to a native of the place who was accompanying him he said: "Gosh; I didn't know that sausages grow on sticks."

A Big Loser.

Mrs. Myles—I see the 24-year-old son of a London dry goods man is a bankrupt, having managed to get rid of \$2,100,000 since he came of age. Mrs. Styles—Oh, well, boys will be boys!

Mrs. Myles—Well, this looks as if a boy had an ambition to be a bridge whist player.

One to Reckon With.

There's a little girl who gave her folks a shock the other day. "Ma, I want a bathing suit," she said. "You shan't have any," ma replied. "Then I'll go bathing without one." The bathing suit matter is now being arbitrated.

Cause for Resentment.

London Punch suggests as a reason for Raisuli's hatred for Calid McLean that it was the latter who introduced bagpipes in Morocco.

Let the nobleness of your mind impel you to its improvement.—Howard.

FOOD FACTS

Grape-Nuts

FOOD A Body Balance

People hesitate at the statement that the famous food, Grape-Nuts, yields as much nourishment from one pound as can be absorbed by the system from ten pounds of meat, bread, wheat or oats. Ten pounds of meat might contain more nourishment than one pound of Grape-Nuts, but not in shape that the system will absorb as large a proportion of, as the body can take up from one pound of Grape-Nuts. This food contains the selected parts of wheat and barley which are prepared and by natural means predigested, transformed into a form of sugar, ready for immediate assimilation. People in all parts of the world testify to the value of Grape-Nuts.

A Mo. man says: "I have gained ten pounds on Grape-Nuts food. I can truly recommend it to thin people." He had been eating meat, bread, etc., right along, but there was no ten pounds of added flesh until Grape-Nuts food was used. One curious feature regarding true health food is that its use will reduce the weight of a corpulent person with unhealthy flesh, and will add to the weight of a thin person not properly nourished. There is abundance of evidence to prove this. Grape-Nuts balances the body in a condition of true health. Scientific selection of food elements makes Grape-Nuts good and valuable. Its delicious flavor and powerful nourishing properties have made friends that in turn have made Grape-Nuts famous. "There's a Reason." Read "The Road to Wellville," in pgs.