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Gambling.
The supreme objection to gambling in all its forms, whether in sport or in speculative business, is that it works harm and loss to society. As soon as any practice or conduct is found to be socially hurtful it thereby becomes wrong, whatever men may have thought of it before. Does not all morally rise to consciousness through the fact of social advantage or injury? Now the long and costly experience of mankind bears uniform testimony against gambling till at last the verdict of civilization has become as nearly unanimous as human judgment can be that it is an intolerable nuisance. It is a dangerous or unsocial form of excitement. It hurts character, demoralizes industry, breeds quarrels, tempts men to self destruction, and it works special injustice to women and children. We may not know precisely why morphine preys upon the nervous system and has to be labeled "poisonous." The fact is the main consideration. So with the stimulus or excitement of gambling. Grant that I profess myself willing to pay for my fun. The fun is degrading, like the prize fight or bear baiting.—Charles F. Dole in Atlantic.

A Remarkable Hat.
A woman wants a divorce because her husband has purchased her only hat in twenty-five years.
It would be interesting to know if there is enough of the hat left to get on straight.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Social Duty.
The idea of social duty dominates our time. We are impregnated with it. It is the most urgent aspiration of the modern conscience and in the midst of our controversies defies all our ironies.—Georges Touchard in La Nouvelle Revue, Paris.

A Case of Luck.
Benevolent Lady—But, my poor man, if you have been looking for work all these years, why is it that you have never found it? Tramp (confidentially)—It's luck, mum—just sheer good luck.

CITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS.
CHRISTIAN—Bible school at 10 a. m. Y. P. S. C. E. at 7 p. m. All are welcome.
EPISCOPAL—Preaching services at St. Alban's church at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Sunday school at 10 a. m. All are welcome to these services.
E. R. EARLE, Rector.

CATHOLIC—Order of services: Mass, 8 a. m. Mass and sermon, 10:00 a. m. Evening service at 8 o'clock. Sunday school, 2:30 p. m. Every Sunday.
J. J. LOUGHRAN, Pastor.

BAPTIST—Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching service at 11:00 a. m. Evening service at 8:00. B. Y. P. U. at 7 p. m. A most cordial invitation is extended to all to worship with us.
E. BURTON, Pastor.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE—Services, Sunday at 11 a. m., and Wednesday at 8 p. m. Subject, "Christian Science." Meetings held in Diamond block. Room open Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 2 to 4 p. m. Science literature on sale.

METHODIST—Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 by Rev. O. Moore of the Wesleyan Uni. of Lincoln. Junior League at 4 p. m. Epworth League at 6:45. New Year sermon by pastor Watch night service New Year eve. Prayer meeting Wednesday night at 7:45. To all these services the public is cordially invited.
M. B. CARMAN, Pastor.

CONGREGATIONAL—Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. by pastor, Junior Christian Endeavor at 3 p. m. Senior Endeavor at 7 p. m. Prayer meeting every Wednesday at 7:45 p. m. Sunday night service under auspices of Mens Sunday Evening Club. Sermon subject, "The Meeting Point of the Ages." The public is cordially invited to all of these services.
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Wanted His Money's Worth.
"Have you any choice as to the wedding march?" asked the church organist.
"The wedding march?" echoed the father of the bride.
"Yes; the march that is played when the bridal procession moves down the aisle. Which one would you prefer—Mendelssohn's or the march from 'Lohengrin'?"
"Any difference in the expense?"
"Oh, no!"
"Then play the one that's the longest."

Holme and Philadelphia.
The gridiron pattern upon which Philadelphia was laid out was the work of Thomas Holme, the surveyor general of Pennsylvania. The design, however, was Penn's own. Little seems to be popularly known of Thomas Holme, although some of his descendants still live in the city and bear his name, but it is said that all of his vast tract of land and his city lots have long since passed out of the possession of his family.

When Does Reason Dawn?
As there must be a point back along the line of our descent where consciousness began—consciousness in the animal and self consciousness in man—so there must be a point where reason began. If we had all the missing links in the chain no doubt we might approximately at least determine the point or the form in which it first dawned. The higher anthropoid apes, which are, no doubt, a lateral branch of the stem of the great biological tree that bore man, show occasional gleams of it, but reason, as we ascribe it to the lower orders, is more a kind of symptomatic reason, a vague foreshadowing of reason rather than the substance itself. For a long time the child is without reason or any mental concepts, and all its activities are reactions to stimuli, like those of an animal. It is merely a bundle of instincts, but by and by it begins to show something higher, and we hail the dawn of reason and its development from the animal plane into the human.—John Burroughs in Outing Magazine.

Percentages in Shopping.
"There goes one of the 5 per cent.," said a conversational floorwalker in a big department store as he indicated a slender, active woman who was making rapidly for the street.
"You must be right, of course," remarked his visitor, "but what do you mean?"
"Why, I divide women shoppers into four classes—first, those who do not intend to buy; second, those who intend to buy, but don't know what they want; third, those who know what they want when they leave home, but become absolutely confused when they get among the goods; and fourth, those who know all the time what they want, go direct and get it and get out as soon as possible.
"The fourth class, don't you know, constitute only about 5 per cent of the whole, and that woman's one of them. They are a blessing in a way, but unfortunately they don't turn in as much money as classes two and three."—New York Globe.

Attractive Show.
Here are a few selections from a circus poster recently displayed in Ambala, India:
"1. Some horses will make as very much better tricks.
"2. The clown will come and talk with that horses, therefore the audience will laugh itself very much.
"3. Boys will jump and roll in the mud.
"4. One man will walk on wire tight, he doing very nicely, because he is professor of that.
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"Notice.—No sticks will be allowed in the spectator, and he shall not making the smoke; also we don't make it only the fourth class.
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The Giraffe's Neck.
Lamarck thought that the giraffe obtained its long neck by transmission of parental stretching to reach the leaves of trees and that each new generation literally "began where the last left off." I say literally because the young giraffe was conceived, so to speak, as continuing at the branches which its parents could just reach and then stretching its neck to reach leaves inaccessible to the parents. So to say, it began eating where the parents left off.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Aiming and Hitting.
Mr. Kidder—I think a woman's club to be successful should aim at something far removed from female surface.
Miss Strong—I don't agree with you, sir. That should be its sole object.
Mr. Kidder—Yes, but it's more likely to hit that object if it aims at something else.—Philadelphia Press.

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"At least the audience didn't hiss," remarked the playwright after the unsuccessful first night.
"No," replied the manager sadly; "they were too sleepy."—Lippincott's Magazine.

Safe.
Eloper (in a loud whisper)—Are you sure the rope ladder is firmly attached? Eloper—Oh, yes, I won't fall. Papa and mamma are at the top holding it.—Cleveland Leader.

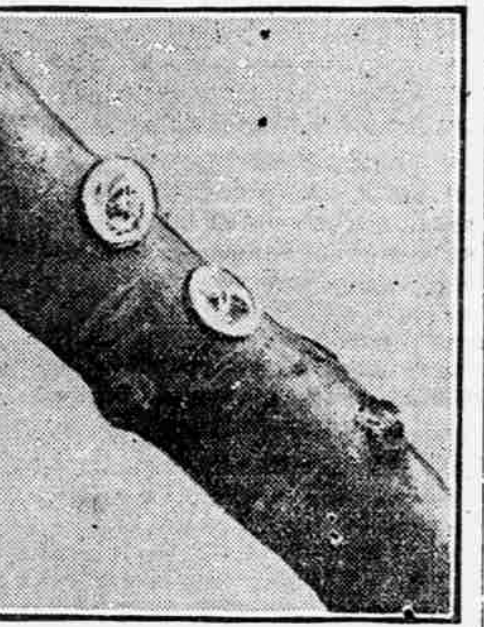
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"Has Santa Claus come yet?" FROM STEREOPHOTOGRAPH COPYRIGHT BY UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD

The Mistletoe
By ROBERTUS LOVE.

[Copyright, 1907, by Robertus Love.]
WHEN you step under the sprig of mistletoe hanging from the chandelier to get your Christmas kiss you may not be particularly interested in the genesis of the peculiar little vegetable growth which Cupid seems to have appropriated for his own. Nevertheless the process of mistletoe production and reproduction is highly interesting. In some parts of England, where most of the mistletoe of Christmas



BERRIES CRUSHED ON A BRANCH.

time comes from the gardeners propagate the parasite artificially. Mistletoe, as is well known, is of the parasitic kind, taking its sustenance not from the ground, but from a tree. The apple tree seems to be its favorite, though the hawthorn, the lime and the poplar frequently carry the parasite.

The scientific inoculation of trees with the mistletoe growth is practiced with excellent results in the north of England. The gardener takes between his thumb and forefinger one of the little berries of the mistletoe, crushes it so that its sticky juice oozes out and sticks it upon the surface of a branch of the tree. Usually he selects a young branch, on which the bark is soft and easily penetrable. If an older branch be chosen, the bark is slightly scraped on the surface. The berry is mashed flat against the bark. The seed which it contains is thus held in place by its own gum.

Late April or May is the proper season for inoculating. The seed soon sends through the bark a little "feeler" or root, and a small twig, bending in toward the branch of the tree, appears.



TWIG AND FIRST BUD BURSTING.

from those counties. The thrush of this name is exceedingly fond of the mistletoe berry. After eating its fill the bird flies to another tree. Being cleanly, it uses the branch of the tree upon which it alights for a napkin, wiping its sticky bill thereon. Frequently a mistletoe seed is thus deposited and glued in the bark. Then the reproductive process follows naturally.

An official inquiry as to whether mistletoe is still to be found on oak trees, as in traditional days, resulted in the discovery of several oaks in one county of England bearing the parasite. But I seldom believe have seen to be Cupid that makes the Druidical. When the mistletoe, and the miss, plus the mister, get in the proper positions the result ripens with kiss.

peak at the place where the hook has been. This tip gets green and shiny, a bud pushes up, and in a few weeks an unmistakable twig of mistletoe is visible, with a stem and a long leaf or two.

After this the mistletoe comes rapidly into its kingdom and takes possession. The close observer will see other little swellings and peaks along the branch, the thin roots of the mistletoe having traveled under the bark to sprout up in fresh places. Thus it travels along until sometimes the whole tree is in its possession, fine bunches of the Christmas hanger growing abundantly.

When once the mistletoe takes possession of a fruit tree the effect upon the fruit is quite noticeable. The mistletoe takes its nourishment from the tree to which it clings. That is the soil in which its roots live and thrive. Naturally this reduces the amount of substance which formerly went into the fruit. If the captive be an apple tree, the apples become small and scraggly. The mistletoe has stolen away their sweetness and plumpness. Man grows by what he feeds on. So does mistletoe. And as the pork eating man visits the penalty of death upon the pig so does the penalty of withholding and souring fall upon the apple whose progenitor feeds the spreading parasite. Nature is full of wonders, and the growth of mistletoe is one of the most wonderful when adequately studied.

Mistletoe grows naturally in parts of England and Scotland, being propagated by birds. In some of the northern counties of Scotland no mistletoe is found. This is believed to be due to the absence of the mistle thrush



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Why's Santa Claus?
"Well, Willy," said Uncle Ned, who sometimes talked stangy, "I suppose you had a hot time on Christmas."
"I sh'd say I did," replied Willy. "Santy Claus filled my socks so full that they fell down into th' fireplace an' I ketch'd on fire, an' I got up t' gether up the scraggs that wuz left an' found paw there tryin' t' do th' same thing, an' I got m' hands an' arms burned so I had t' stay in bed all day, an' then paw licked me fer gittin' up so early on Christmas mornin'."

Not As It Read.
A certain M. P., as proud and fond as a man should be of his beautiful young wife, was just about rising to speak in a debate when a telegram was put into his hands. He read it, left the house, jumped into a cab, drove to Charing Cross and took the train to Dover. Next day he returned home, rushed into his wife's bedroom and, finding her there, upbraided the astonished lady in no measured terms. She protested her ignorance of having done anything to offend him.
"Then what did you mean by your telegram?" he asked.
"Mean? What I said, of course! What are you talking about?"
"Read it for yourself," said he.
She read: "I flee with Mr. X. to Dover straight. Pray for me."
For the moment words would not come. Then, after a merry fit of laughter, the suspected wife quietly remarked:
"Oh, those dreadful telegraph people! No wonder you are out of your mind, dear. I telegraphed simply: 'I tea with Mrs. X. in Dover street. Stay for me.'"—Pearson's.

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Always the Same
Calumet Baking Powder
The only high grade Baking Powder sold at a moderate price.

This Bank
has safely handled the funds of its patrons for over 22 years. If you are looking for a strong, safe and conservative bank—one that has nearly \$90,000.00 of Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits, and several times this amount of personal responsibility behind it, then you cannot do better than place your business with
The First National Bank of McCook.

Seeing Is Believing
If you will figure with us, and quality of material s any object, you will be easily convinced that we out-class all competition.
BARNETT LUMBER CO.

Great Lumber & Coal Center
Home of Quality and Quantity, where
W. C. BULLARD
sells THE BEST LUMBER AND COAL.
Are you thinking of building? If so, it is ten to one our figures will please you.
M. O. McCLURE, Manager.
Phone No. 1.

CHICHESTER'S PILLS
DIAMOND BRAND
Beware of Counterfeits. Refuse all Substitutes.
LADIES! Ask your Druggist for CHICHESTER'S DIAMOND BRAND PILLS in RED and GOLD metallic boxes, sealed with Blue Ribbon. TAKE 20 CENTS. Buy of your Druggist and ask for CHICHESTER'S DIAMOND BRAND PILLS, for twenty-five years regarded as Best, Safest, Always Reliable.
SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS
TIME TRIED. WORTH EVERYWHERE TESTED.

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