

### HINDU PRINCESS GOES UPON HUNGER STRIKE

Declares She Doesn't Need to Eat, for Spirits Would Provide Life.

#### OFFERS TO TEACH MALONEY

Princess Khan Oola has gone on a hunger strike.

Since her arrest Friday afternoon she has refused to eat anything except a few oranges, which she brought with her. She has turned down a number of tempting dishes prepared especially for her.

"Why should I eat?" she demanded in a half audible jargon. "It isn't necessary for me to live on food. The spirits will supply me with it."

Brought before Chief Detective Maloney she told a different story, however. She said that her creed forbade her to eat the same dishes as other races. "I eat only what I cook myself. I never eat meat, fish or grease of any kind. The spirits don't allow me to."

**Declines to Buy Food.**  
Although given permission to send out and buy any kind of food she desired, she declined to do so.

"I don't know what we can do with her," Chief of Detectives Maloney said, "unless we fix her an apartment in the matron's department and let her do her own cooking and housekeeping. I for one don't believe in this forceful feeding."

Police declare the princess' method of obtaining her patrons' jewels was revealed to them Saturday afternoon. When a patron came to her home, 1612 Cass street, for free consultation, she asked for a sacrifice to offer up to the spirits. The dearest thing a person possessed, she said, always made the best sacrifice. The sacrifice, of course, was destroyed, she said. When the patron came around again and said that no benefit had resulted, she always would ask for a larger sacrifice, saying that the spirits were not satisfied with the first offering. Through this method, police believe she has taken from Omaha people jewelry, valued at about \$10,000. Nearly 100 rings, many set with diamonds and other precious stones were seized when officers raided her mystic parlors. Trunks of silk dresses and other valuable trinkets were found at her home and many other offerings and sacrifices of her patrons to the spirits and mystic conjurers.

She admitted that she was no ordinary fortune teller. At times she said she held a school for fortune tellers, where anybody with the price could learn the inner workings of the business.

Many of Omaha's best clairvoyants were initiated into the secret mysteries and received their start by attending her school, she said.

For \$500, a very reasonable price, she said, she would teach the entire business, secrets and all, to Chief of Detectives Maloney, who was crossly questioning her on her methods.

"I don't need any fortune telling games to make money," the chief replied.

The code used so successfully by the princess in securing greater sacrifices could not be deciphered by the police. It consisted of a box of indexed cards with different scrawls and letters.

Money taken by Princess Khan Oola, otherwise Mrs. C. G. Mitchell, was not for her own benefit, she said, to a society in London.

It was all the fault of her husband's brother, Jess Mitchell, she said, that she was arrested, the princess declares. She asserted that Jess also dabbled in the hidden mysteries, but was far from having a good patronage, because he sometimes kissed his feminine clients as part of the ceremony.

Jealous of her business and because she refused to give him money, Jess called upon several of her patrons, she said, and told them that she was a fake.

### Gayety Gets in Line With Another Real Good Show

Spicy burlesque, the kind that titillates through your system and emerges therefrom in a series of hearty laughs is yours if you will only journey down to the Gayety theater this week where Jacobs & Jermon's "Burlesque Review" is holding forth. If Harry K. Morton was the only one in the show, it would be worth seeing. But there are forty others, some good to look at and the rest good to listen to.

Newness vibrates through the whole program. Aged songs are taboo, except in one scene of special beauty where old southern "darker" songs are sung. Novel dancing numbers are prolific, the educated feet of Harry Morton tattooing out many a good sample of fancy stepping. And last, but not least, there is no pretense at a plot. Instead, there are twelve refreshing scenes, including the pantomime presentation of "The Apple of Paris," which number scores a triumph.

Zella Russell is a woman who can and does play the piano. She has a specialty number that is better than many an act on a higher-priced circuit. She sings a new "movie show" song and a catchy ditty about Mr. Mormon man which are winners. Her pianistic offerings are classical pieces, well rendered. There is nothing about her act which a church deacon could not applaud.

Flossie Everett, a choicest chunk of righty girlhood, sings and dances her way into the hearts of the audience. Julia de Keley has a way about her that is winning and also a very good voice, rich and powerful. As so the chorus girls, it would take a stern censor, indeed, to find fault with them. Their portrayal of seven art pictures captivated the audience last night.

Comedy has two clever exponents in Harry Morton and Danny Murphy. There is real art in Morton's manner of making laughs, whether it be his acrobatic dancing, kee satir, or queer clownishness. Morton and Murphy have a "bab" act with Zella Russell which is a scream. Too, there is a lot of fun in Murphy's impersonation of a Hawaiian queen.

## "If the Mirror Told True" . . . . . By Nell Brinkley

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WHAT would you see there? Would you, when you slip up on the shining oval and "peek" around the gilt edge to glimpse the pretty face there, see a pussy, do you think, looking back at you? Let's sit down and talk plain out.

Would you see a cat? Are you one, if the mirror only told true? When any one, most specially a man, says some kind thing of another girl or woman are you the girl who cannot let the pretty thing lie, but must pounce on it and pinch out its will 'o'-the-wisp life? For a nice thing said of a woman is a delicate thing and lifts its head shyly. All the unkind things grow like scratchy, hardy weeds and spread through all the by-ways of the world for every one to see. You must remember that. That all the loveliest, most-needed things are fragile and easy to lose or kill. That the coarse, rough things that we do not sigh after spring alive quickly and are

as hard to tramp out as Trouble's shadow. And anyone knows what a robust companion he is. Pinching to death the brave little leaves of a gracious word said to another is only a habit, one of those things you catch when you live too long on a boarding-house veranda with nothing to do; so the next time someone who is striding along with you says a splendid thing about someone else who is not there, even if you don't believe it, remember that all the mirrors in the world might suddenly begin to get back the image of the thing you are most like—and don't be what is called a "cat!" So agree and smile! And see how good you feel inside right after.

NELL BRINKLEY.

## New Gravitation Theory Is Waves in Ether Push All Bodies Together

By GARRETT P. SERVIS.

The mystery of mysteries in science is the attraction of gravitation—that very force of nature that is the most familiar to us all!

It seems strange that the most familiar thing in the world should be, at the same time, the most inexplicable—but so it is.

In order to see clearly wherein the mystery consists, let us first consider what gravitation appears to be. It is gravitation that gives the property of weight to all bodies. If there were no gravitation we could float like thistle-downs, and infinitely better than thistle-downs; for they, too, are finally brought down by gravitation.

It is gravitation that brings a cannon ball eventually to the earth, no matter how swiftly it may be projected.

The faster it starts the farther it will go, but during every second of its flight it drops the same distance vertically toward the earth, whether the speed imparted to it by the powder is 500 or 3,000 feet per second. Gravitation acts on a moving body exactly as well as on one at rest.

It is gravitation that keeps the motion of the moon and curbs it in an orbit of which the earth is the active focus.

So, too, it is gravitation that governs the earth in its motion around the sun, preventing it from flying away into boundless space. Astronomy shows that gravitation acts between all the planets and all the stars and controls their motions with respect to one another.

Now this mysterious force appears to be an attraction, as if there were elastic cords connecting all the bodies in space and tending to draw them together. But space, as far as our senses can detect, is empty. There are no elastic cords and no physical tronomical bodies, or between a flying stone, or cannon ball, and the earth. How, then, can there be an attraction? In order that a body may be attracted or drawn there must be something to draw it. Gravitation does the trick, but completely hides from us the mechanism through which it acts. We can discover no mechanism at all.

When an unfortunate aeronaut drops from his machine at a height of a thousand feet he begins at once to fall toward the earth as if it were pulling him; but how can it pull if it has nothing to pull with? You may think at first sight that it is the air which acts as an intermediary; but that is not so, because the earth and the moon "pull" upon one another with a force equal to the strength of a steel cable 500 miles in diameter; but there is no air, and no other tangible thing in the open space, 240,000

miles across, that gaps between the moon and the earth.

Then, gravitation exerts the same force at every instant. No matter how fast the falling aeronaut may be descending at any moment, gravitation will keep on adding speed as if he had just started. Disregarding the slight retardation produced by the resistance of the air, he will fall sixteen feet in the first second, forty-eight in the second second, eighty in the third second, gaining thirty-two feet in his velocity during every second after the first.

From a height of 1,000 feet he will come down in about eight seconds, and will strike the ground with a velocity of about 256 feet per second. From a height of 10,000 feet he would fall in about twenty-five seconds, and would strike with a velocity of 400 feet per second.

The same kind of calculation can be applied to the gravitation between the earth and the moon. If the moon were not in motion across the direction of the earth's "pull" it would fall to the earth in about 116 hours.

Now, to return to the mystery, how is this force exerted? Is it really a pull as it seems to be? The answer to which science is tending is that instead of being a pull, gravitation is a push; in other words, that the falling aeronaut is pushed toward the ground and the moon is pushed toward the earth.

On the face of it one might think that nothing was gained by this theory, because it seems as impossible that a push should be exerted without a tangible connection as a pull. But the clue is found in the supposed properties of that invisible, intangible, all-pervading medium called ether.

This, to be sure, is explaining one mystery by another, for we know nothing about the ether except that it conveys the waves of light and electricity, but, at any rate, it affords a conceivable explanation of gravitation. I have no space to go into this explanation, which has recently been developed by Dr. Charles F. Brush, but an idea of its nature may be formed from the statement that it regards the ether as being filled with a peculiar form of waves, and that material bodies may intercept these waves in such a way as to be pushed toward one another on account of the diminished effect of the ether waves in the space between the bodies.

**Sentenced a Boyhood Friend.**  
When they went to school together they called each other Jim and Al. But when they met in the Wyandotte county district court recently it was Judge A. J. Herrod and James Sexton, confessed bank forger. The judge looked down from the bench at the prisoner, who fumbled his hat and looked at the floor. Jim had admitted to Al that he had forged the name of Daniel Sumpter to eight checks he cashed at the Commercial National Bank, Kansas city. "Ten years on each count," the judge said. They turned to lead Jim away. Al looked up from his docket. "Maks 'em run concurrently," he added. "Ten years is a long time, you know."—Kansas City Star.

### OMAHA ENGINEERS DECLARE FOR WAR

Charge Eastern Colleagues With Using Steam Roller in American Society.

#### INSPECT NEW U. P. BRIDGE

That the New York civil engineers, holding the balance of power through superior representation on the board of directors are piloting the steam roller over the western engineers and are running the American Society of Civil Engineers to suit themselves is the contention of the Nebraska branch of the national organization, which met in Omaha Saturday. The local engineers are real peeved at their eastern colleagues and intend to take steps which will prevent the easterners from ruling the society in the future.

Up to this time the national organization has been known as the New York Society of Engineers. But after the meeting of the board of directors next summer the local men assert that it will be called by its proper name.

The members of the organization took luncheon at the Commercial club and then were taken to Council Bluffs in automobiles. There G. L. Campen, superintendent of construction of the Heynes elevator, demonstrated how concrete elevators are built. The unique feature of the whole thing was the manner in which the forms are raised and at the same time kept perpendicular.

The most interesting feature of the afternoon was the inspection of the Union Pacific bridge. W. L. Brayton, chief engineer of the railroad, showed the visitors over the structure. The thing that impressed the out-of-town members was the way the old bridge is being taken down. Ordinarily such bridges would be moved on a temporary foundation and then taken to pieces in sections. In this case the foundation has been done away with between spans and the old spans supported by the new structure by means of levers.

R. A. Wilson took the members through the electric light plant and laid emphasis on the construction of the new tunnels. Some unique engineering features are to be seen in connection with this work. Among them is the cutting of steel sheet piling at a depth of twenty feet below the surface of the Missouri by the use of the oxygen-acetylene flame.

At the business meeting which was held at the Fontenelle after the banquet several matters were brought before the organization. It was unanimously decided to allow the student civil engineers of the country to form local societies.

#### Sues Husband's Partner In Business for Assault

Mrs. Mayme L. Plummer has brought suit against Peter B. Buller, her husband's partner in the grocery business at 1914 Lake street, for \$6,000.

Mrs. Plummer alleges in her petition that Buller, who also rooms with the Plummer family at 1912 Lake street, intimidated, assaulted and attacked her while she had an infant child in her arms and threatened her with personal violence if she refused to do his bidding.

### Says Germans Retire Not From Necessity, But Choice

London, March 4.—The Frankfurter Zeitung's correspondent at the Franco-Belgian front is quoted in a Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam as saying:

"The strong can do what the weak dare not. That we are able to hold the Somme front if we desire our incomparable warriors have shown the world. If we now vacate a small strip of this front we obviously do so only because we want to and not because we must. This confidence at the front in what our commanders order should strengthen the confidence at home that what appears to be a retreat may be a prelude to undoubted advances."

### Alaska Railway Measure Rushed Through Congress

Washington, March 4.—An emergency appropriation of \$3,000,000 to continue work on the Alaskan railway was rushed through the senate and house in a few minutes tonight. It originally had been incorporated in one of the regular supply measures, which failed of enactment.



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