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In the language of "Met," Mr. Hitchbranch is mad. That's very evident.

By the way, which Christmas was it that was to have seen the boys out of the trenches?

It is plain from subsequent developments that Edgar Howard's shell squarely hit the black-handers.

Having passed a dry Christmas in Omaha safely, the ordeal of the first dry New Year may come easier.

Still the Bolsheviks of the Mexican border could scarcely design a better plan than raiding to facilitate involuntary suicide.

"Food will win the war." "Air supremacy will win the war." "Control of the ocean will win the war." All right, just so we win it.

Let the searchlight uncover the truth, whether it go to police dereliction, postoffice inefficiency or War department incompetency.

War bulletins "made in Germany" emphasize the steady development in that quarter of the art of concealing hurts and trumpeting successes.

No chaplains over 40 years. Seasoned ministers are not welcome in the army, but in the coming grand hike to Berlin, Washington realizes that only pulsing youth can keep the pace.

Christmas peace offers from Potsdam somehow failed to connect with the wire. The deliverances of Wilson and George doubtless forced a recall of the promised message for radical revision.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The next refutation of the charge that "a political pirate" has been standing in the way of the Seventh regiment will be its acceptance as a part of the national army.

Prompt and vigorous measures should be taken to check the epidemic of "shudders" around Capitol square. The enfeebled condition of the state house renders the slightest shake perilous to the inside population.

If the meat packers and packing house employees can agree to arbitration terms for labor disputes during the war, so can other industries. And if arbitration can give us industrial peace during the war, why not after the war?

Jobs and more jobs crowd upon American artisans here and overseas. A hurry call for carpenters and bricklayers for American work in England and France electrifies the dormant current of wanderlust and foreshadows a quick response from the unattached.

A touch of the homey feeling no doubt crept into the Christmas festivities of the boys "somewhere in France." They would not be Americans without it. Imagine the priceless value of the experience. In the years to come "my Christmas with the army in France" will be a theme of surpassing interest around the home fires, on the platform and in the magazines.

Reports of Germany being posted on the movements of American ships lack the element of surprise. Those who should exercise caution seem more disposed to disregard ordinary precautions. The New York Times tells of a notorious pro-German, convicted under the espionage act and released on parole, allowed to live on Staten island, where he may observe the daylight comings and goings of ships in the harbor.

More Work for Women
Minneapolis Journal

The personnel of employed classes in this country already has undergone a marked change as a result of the nation's entering the war. Women in large numbers are taking places made vacant by drafted men and volunteers. Men over 45 are finding it much easier to procure remunerative employment. Thousands of women are taking preliminary training for positions which will be open to them later as the operation of the draft act widens.

The public employment bureau of the city of New York has just made an interesting statement of the situation. It finds that many kinds of employment hitherto reserved exclusively for men are now available to women. One of these is architectural drafting, another is the running of elevators in apartment and business houses, and still another automobile cleaning and driving.

One large New York downtown banking institution is filling its vacant clerical positions exclusively with women. Bankers are the largest employers of women as clerks. Some of the women are protesting against the number of hours they must work and are chafing at certain restraints which, they feel, constitute an assault on their dignity and liberty.

Some departments of factories are operated solely by women. These employes are paid the same wages granted to men at the start. Railroad companies are engaging women in ever-increasing numbers. The process is to "try them out" in a general way and then transfer them to the specialized work for which they seem best adapted.

To date few women have been asked to perform arduous physical tasks or to work at night. Special environment becoming to their sex.

Broadly speaking, the change is only in the experimental stage, but the results are encouraging, that if emergency requires, the women of America will rival in the faithfulness and excellence of their service their sisters abroad.

More "Scraps of Paper."

Germany's disregard of terms of the armistice with the Bolsheviks is not at all surprising under the circumstances. None outside of Russia has placed any confidence in the sincerity of the kaiser's flirtation with the Lenin and Trotsky dupes. This does not lessen the advantage to German arms, gained by the respite on the Russian front, which permitted withdrawals of troops to strengthen the Hindenburg line in France and Flanders. The Bolshevik is powerless to enforce any of his terms against the German, and if he has fallen a victim to the duplicity of the kaiser's party it is his irretrievable misfortune. That such an outcome was certain to follow the so-called peace negotiations could easily be foreseen, yet the move was wholly within the rights of the dominant faction of the numerous Russian divisions. It has a lesson for Americans, as establishing even more definitely the accuracy of the charge made against the German government, that it is not to be trusted in treaty or otherwise. Its whole course throughout the war has been one of utter disregard to obligations towards others, no matter in what form presented. The armistice agreement was merely another "scrap of paper," and is now in scraps.

The Pernicious Fee System.

At the end of a protracted litigation our Nebraska supreme court holds in favor of the contention of the clerk of the district court that under the law, as it existed up to last July, he could rightfully keep, in addition to his salary, one-half of the naturalization fees coming into his hands. On the general issue the decision of the court is a dogfall, since it had previously ruled against the clerk's claim that he was entitled also to hold receipts coming to him as insanity fees. The last legislature changed the law with the intention to limit the clerk's compensation strictly to the prescribed salary, so that, unless this law too is attacked, the fee system is abolished for this office, at least for the future.

The Bee wants its position kept clear—that it is opposed wholly to the fee system as a method of paying public officers because that system has invariably led to abuses beyond control. The Bee believes every public office which carries compensation should have a definite and fixed salary limit which should be understood in advance and that every person seeking, or accepting, the office should take it without further proffering in the way of perquisites, fees or side lines. What we say applies not particularly to the position of clerk of the court any more than to other public officers. We know there are still several loopholes in the law by which such perquisites may be legally retained, but these holes should be plugged as soon as possible. We have made great progress in getting away from the discredited fee system and we should finish the job.

Over the Top for the Red Cross.

Local subscriptions to the Red Cross show that Omaha is going along in step with the country in contributing to war aid. It must be gratifying to all that this should be so. The immensity of the sums subscribed for this and similar purposes since the beginning of the war is splendid proof of the responsiveness of the public to all calls for help. Generosity plus has been and will continue to be the rule. But a much more important phase of the subject is now getting consideration. The suggestion made by The Bee some weeks ago, advising closer coordination and control of war relief activities, is attracting careful attention. It is now soberly proposed by many that the work be turned over to the government for management and administration. The task is one of greatest magnitude and importance, and almost too great for a volunteer organization. No complaint is yet made as to the effectiveness of the work, but some thoughtful men and women incline to the belief that better results might be obtained with all work in connection with the war handled by the government. Relief will continue to be furnished liberally by the American people, but its quality will not be affected by elimination of existing duplications.

Value of Congressional Inquiries.

Committees of congress sitting at Washington during the holiday recess will provide sufficient of sensational proceedings and disclosures to avert any likelihood of stagnation of interest in the war. These goings-on are an inevitable accompaniment of our national method of doing business. So far as the investigations already in progress are concerned, developments simply serve to emphasize statements heretofore made that the governmental machinery was inadequate to handling the great task of war preparation. It was not a lack of patriotism, but delay in getting to work that put such a tremendous burden on the little army machinery.

Bureaus chargeable with the management of military affairs, it is not denied, broke down or were unable to function at the required speed. Some of the blame may probably belong to congress, where the greatest of the delay occurred. Distinct and detailed information submitted by capable officers of the War college was ignored and the only serious effort to get ready for war had as its outcome the resignation of Secretary of War Garrison, while congress continued to camouflage the most dangerous situation the government ever faced.

Politicians now confronted with the certainty of rebuke at the polls may seek to shift the blame to army and navy heads, but the best they can do is to share it with them. The value of the congressional inquiries will be found in the fact that they will uncover enough to waken the people to the part the democratic statesmen had in leading the country up to the very brink in a state of unreadiness for campaign purposes. Ample warning was disregarded by them and the country is paying the bills.

Very little noise comes out of Japan regarding her present part in the world war. The country is doing its bit just the same. Besides munitions supplied to Russia during its fighting days "the Yankees of the east" loaned \$500,000,000 to the allies and 1,000 Jap soldiers, naturalized in Canada, are among the Canadian forces snooting up the Huns on the west front.

A marked scarcity of "Scotch" in Britain threatens to reduce holiday hilarity in that quarter. A species of silent conscription transferred 1,000,000 gallons of the brand to the fronts where facilities for fireworks approach perfection.

Curing Personalities

By Frederic J. Haskin

Washington, Dec. 24.—The amazing number of neuritis and psychopaths encountered in the armies of this war have demonstrated the tremendous need of the mental clinic in our civil life. In almost every city in this country there are eye, ear and throat clinics, dental clinics and orthopedic clinics. The city hospitals maintain records on all such cases, but it is only within the last few years that a few cities have established mental dispensaries where people could go and be treated free of charge for mental diseases.

In New York, Boston, Baltimore, Ann Arbor, Mich., and several other cities mental dispensaries have been introduced with encouraging success; in a few other cities hospitals have established free mental wards, but the instances are all too few. In every community there are many persons who are in need of mental treatment, but there is no provision for them. Nervous disorders are plenty, but a specialist is the one type of medical man who rarely undertakes philanthropic work—not that he is unwilling, but somehow people do not look for nerve diseases among the poor.

Yet more neuritis, morons, psychopaths and feeble-minded persons are to be found among the poorer classes than anywhere else. The American Society of Mental Hygiene recently made a study of the inmates of several American prisons and established the fact that with few exceptions the criminal is mentally defective. Most drug addicts, vagrants, irresponsibles and delinquents, moreover, are victims of mental disorders. And while these types are not peculiar to the poorer classes, they are most prolific under poor economic conditions. Here, where the struggle for existence is hardest, where the strain is always felt and a man's personality is in constant conflict with his environment, is the great need for the mental clinic.

One difficulty lies in the way of the mental clinic, however, which does not affect other clinics. This is the diffidence most people feel towards admitting any mental infirmity. About his sore throat or his hay fever or his lumbago a man will talk to you for hours, but let it once be suggested that it is his personality which needs a little treatment and he energetically rises to his own defense. Thus it happens that patients are usually brought to the mental dispensary, and not attracted there. A mother brings her small son at the suggestion of an officer of the juvenile court; a woman is sent to the dispensary by her physician; still other cases are brought by social workers.

Often, too, a person has no suspicion whatever that he is suffering from mental trouble. His symptoms may be anything from headaches and irritability, indigestion as frequently caused by mental exertion instead of ungenial food. Blindness and deafness of mental origin just as much as hysteria, hypochondria and tantrums. A music teacher for years used to have vomiting spells regularly every Saturday night. She tried all indigestion remedies to no avail. Then she happened to come under the observation of a psychiatrist, a friend of the family. He discovered that on Saturdays this young woman taught pupils in widely separated parts of the city, that she was constantly running to catch cars, and worrying over possible delays in her appointments. By evening her nerves were keyed to such a pitch that nausea was the result.

He explained the matter to the young woman's family, and got them to persuade her to give up these Saturday pupils for a couple of months and to spend her Saturday afternoons in the gymnasium of the local Young Women's Christian association. This prescription was successful where all the indigestion remedies had failed.

On the other hand, organic disturbances of one kind and another are often responsible for mental disorders. In fact, as medical science progresses, the mind and the body are discovered to be more and more closely allied. Thus a feeble digestion may be the cause of melancholia, or melancholia the cause of a feeble digestion. "The personality in face of difficulties," says Dr. C. Macie Campbell of Johns Hopkins hospital, "may find refuge in phantasies, deliria or hallucinations, but also in aches and pains and palsies; and the latter may be as truly evidence of mental disorder as the former."

Under these circumstances the work of the mental clinic is not so much to treat the patient, but to diagnose his personality and prescribe the proper environment for it. And the nature and personality is placed in its proper environment, the quicker the cure. So the work of the psychiatrist of the mental dispensary must begin with school children. These are divided into two groups—the backward and the neurotic types.

Backwardness in children is usually, although not always, due to some constitutional defect. Sometimes it is adenoids; sometimes nearsightedness which prevents the child from seeing the blackboard, and again it is defective teeth. In this case the child is in need of a general dispensary and not the mental clinic. In the case of actual mental backwardness, however, due to an incapacity or feeble-mindedness, the psychiatrist does the prescribing. The child must be trained in accordance with his abilities, he must be taught some simple employment that will keep his defective brain occupied and perhaps enable him to earn his own living.

Then the child's parents must be advised in the matter of training such a backward child. His conduct is in need of closer supervision than that of the normal child; he must be kept away from bad influences; from morbid habits and unscrupulous persons. A double responsibility is also imposed upon the school teacher.

The neurotic child affords just as great a problem as the backward one. His symptoms, according to Dr. Campbell, are "night terrors, tantrums of temper, pilfering, romancing, unexplained moods and marked cruelty." There is little difficulty in detecting the neurotic child. School teachers have long been familiar with his type—the child who is constantly destroying the otherwise peaceful discipline of the schoolroom, paying no attention to his lessons and always teasing or bullying his companions. He is the child, who placed in a bad environment, becomes a delinquent, a drug addict, a criminal.

Hence, the psychiatrist must study this child well—his physical make-up, his mental abilities, his emotional vagaries and his capacity for self-control. Then he studies the child's environment. What are his parents like? Whom does he play with? What are his interests? What, in a word, is the general atmosphere in which the child lives, and what would be its natural reaction on his case? A discussion with his parents and school teacher, to whom the psychiatrist may suggest certain measures of reform.

Thus the mental clinic offers an excellent solution to that problem which the war has shown to be reaching grave proportions—the problem of the psychopath. For years many people have been struggling along with their tempestuous temperaments, their personality was ailing like a throat or a tooth. With personality specialists and mental clinics rapidly increasing in numbers, there should soon be an appreciable diminution in chronic cases of "nerves."

People and Events

Wholesale and meatless days are reported a failure in Oklahoma City. The food regulator in that section talks and talks, but his words carry no punch.

RIGHT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Actively engaged in "doing his bit" in his third war, Rear Admiral Laflin H. Billings, United States navy, today celebrates his 75th birthday anniversary. Veteran of the civil war, one time confined in Libby prison, the last surviving member of the United States ship "Water Witch," wrecked in an earthquake and tidal waves at Arica, Peru, in 1852, and the former head of the coast signal service during the Spanish-American war, Admiral Billings has of late been serving at the head of the Fifth naval district's purchasing office in Baltimore. He is a native of New York and entered the naval service soon after the commencement of the civil war.

One Year Ago Today in the War. Russians fell back on the Moldavian frontier.

British airmen destroyed Chikladir bridge on the Bagdad railway.

German claims further successes at Rinnio-Sarat, and 19,000 prisoners.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago. Miss Margaret Bodkin, niece of Jacob Marckel, held a reception at the Millard building.

For want of a quorum, there was no meeting of the city council.

The first of the workmen's trains pulled into the packing house district, and consisted of six comfortably fitted up coaches.

Dr. J. M. Swetman, the well-known and popular physician, was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Mrs. Mae E. Black at the residence of H. B. Brev.

The energetic work of the Rev. M. L. Holt on California street has resulted in the building of a cozy chapel.

Prof. William B. Glanding and wife of Midland college, are the guests of Mr. A. C. Patterson during the holidays.

The American Waterworks company on Christmas eve presented each of the married members of the fire department with a turkey for Christmas dinner.

The office of the coal department of the United States in a few days will be removed to the headquarters of the road on Farnam street.

This Day in History. 1719—John Phillips, merchant and founder of Phillips-Exeter academy, born at Andover, Mass. Died at Exeter, N. H., April 24, 1795.

1771—William Johnson, the first justice of the supreme court of the United States to oppose the practice of permitting the chief justice to act as the origin of the court, born at Charleston, S. C. Died at Brooklyn, N. Y., August 11, 1834.

1822—Federal forces under General Sherman made an unsuccessful assault on the defenses of Vicksburg.

1870—The Germans began a bombardment of the French city of Peronne.

1882—Six hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the House of Hapsburg celebrated in Austria.

1889—Rev. James McGolrick was consecrated Roman Catholic bishop of Duluth.

1893—Orange Judd, one of the most celebrated of American agricultural experts, died at Evanston, Ill. Born at Niagara Falls, N. Y., July 26, 1822.

1911—Washington government protested against British stoppage of American trade.

1915—Lloyd George threatened to resign from the British cabinet unless compulsory military service was adopted.

The Day We Celebrate. Walter T. Page, manager of the Omaha plant for the American Smelting and Refining company, is 56 years old today.

Brigadier General Peyton C. March, United States army, who was sent to France as chief of the American artillery forces, born in Pennsylvania, 53 years ago today.

Rear Admiral Laflin H. Billings, United States navy, retired, born in New York, 75 years ago today.

Brigadier General William H. Bixby, United States army, retired, former chief of army engineers, born at Charlestown, Mass., 68 years ago today.

Dr. John A. Marquis, president of Coe college and secretary of the board of home missions of the Northern Presbyterian church, born in Washington county, Pa., 26 years ago today.

M. Jonnart, noted French colonial administrator, now high commissioner of the protecting powers in Greece, born 60 years ago today.

Charles C. Parr, well known in base ball circles as manager of minor league clubs, born at Coatesville, Pa., 51 years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders. A total eclipse of the moon is scheduled to take place tonight, visible generally throughout North America.

Many prominent speakers are scheduled to address the annual convention of the Music Teachers' National association, which assembles in New Orleans today for a four-day session.

War and reconstruction topics are to be discussed at the 23rd annual meeting of the American Economic association and its allied bodies, which is to assemble today in Philadelphia.

Questions affecting the economic and civic status of the negro and his relations to the country, now and after the war, are to be considered at the seventh annual conference of the National association for the advancement of colored people, which is to meet in New York today for a session of three days.

Storyteller of the Day. Reference to a Washington club was made to address the faculty that some people have of rising superior to an embarrassing situation when this anecdote was fittingly related by Senator Lee S. Overman of North Carolina.

Some time since little Bessie was taken on a railway journey by her young aunt and aunt's fiancé. Everything ran along as unobtrusively as all railway trips until the train entered a dark tunnel. Then suddenly there came the delicious smack of a sweet kiss and the voice of a child.

"Oh, aunt," appealingly exclaimed innocent little Bessie, "please kiss me now!"

Some situation, but aunt was quite equal to it. Before the passengers could break into a titter she was delicately addressing the child.

"It is no matter," she said, "I should say 'kiss me twice.'"—Philadelphia Telegraph

The Bee's Letter Box

Curtis Only 25 Per Cent True. Omaha, Neb., Dec. 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: The letter of Mrs. A. B. McConnell in The Bee entitled "Woman Pitiful Life of Funston Man" is about 75 per cent misstatement. It reports the soldier's home, that Funston are reliable. It seems to me such reports should not be published without investigation.

Read Bee Editorial From Pulpit. Omaha, South Side, Dec. 26.—To the Editor of The Bee: It must be that thousands of other readers of The Bee with myself enjoyed the first editorial in the issue of December 25 on "Christmas." I took the liberty to read it to my congregation at our church services on Christmas morning.

The fact that it was written some three years ago as a prophetic message, to be verified after this lapse of time, indicates clearness of vision, more to commend. Alas, to reproduce an article dealing with work-a-day affairs without the change of a letter or a transposed sentence, is masterful in its unaltered position of loyalty to flag and to nation.

With my people I wish to record my sincere appreciation of this splendid editorial.

ROBERT L. WHEELER, Pastor Wheeler Memorial Presbyterian church.

Roosevelt for Secretary of War. Omaha, Neb., Dec. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: As there seems to be a good deal of dissatisfaction among people in general over the management of war affairs, it seems to me that it is about time that President Wilson would get beyond the bounds of his southern democracy and look for the best men to run the war regardless of politics.

There are many things that Roosevelt has done that I did not approve of nor did millions of other republicans approve of them, yet it seems to me that in the present crisis of our national affairs, that he is the man of the hour and he should be appointed secretary of war for them.

Dimitas would simply hum and would not stand along as they have been doing according to all the reports we can get of the conduct of the war.

President Wilson and other democrats are always quoting Abraham Lincoln and almost daily him, yet Lincoln did not hesitate to appoint demagogues in place of those that they would get in best and only looked to the fitness of men and not to their politics.

The only men that Wilson has appointed to positions outside the democratic party have been appointed to positions that are either ornamental or positions without pay of any kind.

It seems to be the effort of Wilson to make it a democratic war instead of a national war. We are all of us interested as citizens of the republic. We all have to go up or down in this war and it seems to me that the press of the country ought to strongly urge Wilson to look the field over, get beyond the bounds of partisan politics and place men in positions to conduct the war that will make the war a success for the allies, no difference what the politics of the men appointed may be.

We want to win in the war and the only way to win it, is to place men at the head of military affairs who will push things to a speedy conclusion. As one A. C. Rankin said in The Bee a few days ago, "the words finely put together will not win the war for us. Speedy and well timed action is what we need."

FRANK A. AGNEW.

Perhaps Then, But Not Now. Camp Funston, Dec. 21.—To the Editor of The Bee: I was a newspaper man for five years and the reputation of being a good one that I know when things are rotten and when they are not, and I will say that the men in Camp Funston are treated better than they have been at any other time of war in the history of the United States as near as I can find out from history and men who have lived through these wars.

Mrs. McConnell says that the men have only over to them what of their day they not of good heavy down and do they not turn the wind and weather? Does not each man have three suits of good underwear, a heavy overcoat and what is being made for them?

Mrs. McConnell tells of conditions which were here on September 27 and does not tell of them at the present time. When I arrived here it was October 3 and the climate was blowing so you could hardly see your way over saw dust in a swamp, not I, and I had been through swamps in Indiana, Illinois and even in the Mississippi bottoms of Montana and failed to ever see any dust.

As for lack of bed clothing, there is not a man in Camp Funston at present that does not have sufficient of that to keep him warm, and wool blankets are being made for them and comfort ought to be enough to keep any man warm. In addition to that we have steam heat in our barracks. She says that we are dying by scores.

Started With Dandruff. Scaps Inflamed. Itched Considerably. Scratched and Irritated. Hair Fell Out Badly. Cuticura Healed.

"Our little girls had measles and about a month afterward I noticed their heads were getting terrible with a peculiar dandruff which kept getting worse. It finally became eczema in the form of a rash and their scaps were inflamed. The breaking out itched considerably, causing them to scratch and they would irritate their scaps. Their hair fell out badly. Then I sent for Cuticura Soap and Ointment. In a few weeks their heads were healed." (Signed) Mrs. Peter Enslinger, Box 155, Kenwick, Iowa, December 5, 1916.

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