

SUPERSTITIONS ABOUND IN ALL PARTS OF GREECE

Ancient Fetishes Hamper Work of American Nurses in Athens, Major Mills Says.

By MAJOR JAMES A. MILLS, *Written for International News Service.*
Athens, April 17.—American nurses in the Balkan countries have met with some curious customs and superstitions among the natives, particularly in the matter of the care of children. In their daily round of duties they have encountered all the evils of witchery, charm cures and weird beliefs which the centuries have handed down.

They have found it difficult to overcome these heavy, moss-grown traditions and "wisdom" of the ages. The methods of the medicine men of the North American Indians are not more fantastic than those employed by the untutored mothers of the Balkans.

From the moment a baby is born the vital point in his life, as the mother sees it, is to protect him from the spirits of evil which hover over his cradle and follow him through the day, always watching, always waiting, always hoping for their opportunity. Some of the means employed by the Greek mothers to banish these sinister spirits are most extraordinary. The poor child has to endure many strange ceremonies before his parents feel at all sure of his future.

Mud Behind Baby's Ears.
One method much in vogue is to place behind the baby's ears a dab of mud. With this "charm" in position baby, his mother thinks, has not much to fear. Nearly all the children brought to the American Red Cross clinic in Athens have this smear of mud on their ears. Only after frantic pleading on the nurse's part was this weird custom abandoned.

The finger nail myth is also much respected. The belief is that if a baby's nails are never cut and are allowed to grow pointed and long, he will, when he waves his arms about, catch the face of the demon of theft, and the demon disliking it will fly away and not possess himself of the baby's soul. The crust that lack of care and dirt forms upon a baby's head is the subject of much superstitious reverence. On its charmed presence and thickness some Balkan mothers believe depend many vital things. The cutting of the infant's teeth, the suddenness of vision, the importance of his limbs, and, most important of all, his intellect rely entirely upon its preservation. When the American nurses go to the root of the belief they find it all revolves about the old fear of the soft skull opening and exposing the brain.

Exorcise Demons at Baptism.

So deep seated is the belief in evil that even at the solemn ceremony of the Greek baptism, the priest and the godmother exorcise the demons by blowing their breath in the form of a cross over the baby and also about the room and at the doors and windows to prevent the further entrance of wicked spirits during the ceremony. The sacred oil with which the baby is anointed in baptism must not be washed off until after 40 days have elapsed. This is rigorously observed, especially among the peasants, and the baby at the end of the allotted time has

Elks Will Show Their Great Film Today



The Elks are the most intensely patriotic fraternal organization in the United States. They are very proud of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Women Relief Corps, and they always stand ready to recognize these two great organizations that emanated from the Civil war. With this end in view, they have invited the officers and members of the several posts and relief corps to attend the Sunday matinee at the Brandeis theater, April 18, at 3 p. m., when the first showing of the great Elks film pictures, "The Spirit of Elksdom" and "The Way Back" will be presented. It should be known that the net proceeds of the 10 performances to be given will be donated entirely to the bureau of vocational training at Washington for disabled soldiers, sailors and marines. The gallery of the theater will be occupied by the newboys of this city for the Sunday matinee.

The appearance of a little coal heaver, so thickly is he coated with dust and oil.

When baby is sick and all other remedies fail, a bed of cold cinders is very generally used as a last resort. The cradle is filled with old ashes and the infant is buried in them. The American nurses have never been able to discover what the benefit to be derived from this curious custom was supposed to be.

Curious Colic Cure.
The cure for colic is even more curious. When the baby has a severe colic, the ponds in the environs of the house are diligently searched by members of the family and all the frogs are captured. These are placed alive on the child's abdomen. It is a very tiresome treatment, as someone must sit by and keep the frogs from hopping off the patient. No thought is given to the terror these jumping frogs may have for the child.

Among the gypsies that wander over the Balkans, the work of the Red Cross nurses is more difficult. It will take years of preparation and education to enable them merely to begin to understand the idea of "child welfare." For the moment "Kismet" and "Allah" rule their lives, will all fate, good or ill, and kill all initiative.

In an experimental way lace ball bats are being made by Wisconsin scientists from strips of waste wood glued together.

Dramatists Made Servile By Large Audiences, Poet Says

By Universal Service.
Chicago, April 17.—The ambrosia quaffed by the poets of Olympus was not denied William Butler Yeats, Ireland's poet laureate, while visiting Chicago.

While the poet reclined on his bed in the Auditorium hotel and discussed disincarnate spirits, a half pint flagon, so to speak of the bottled-in-bond variety was laid in homage at his feet.

"I am convinced that we are on the edge of a vast change of thought and that we can not have any great economic and industrial changes until the transformation comes," he was saying when Miss Harriet Monroe, editor of Poetry, was announced. She delved into an incoherent looking handbag.

World Grows More Cheerful.
"I read this morning of your unpreparedness," she said. "Here is succor for your sorrow."

Anti straightway the lyricist's voice grew more cheerful in tone and he talked of the stage and the world with what seemed greater optimism.

"This is an age of political and scientific culture," he remarked. "I belong to the romantic world that is gone. Some time the emotional and religious age will return, but

Mr. Yeats is of the opinion that not in our day—perhaps within 200 years—the philosophy of the world is about to change from the skepticism that came in with the Renaissance to belief. He thinks the psychological research tendency, so prevalent now, is partially responsible for this. He believes that not until the alteration in thought occurs will commercialism leave the realm of drama and literature.

"I have no interest in a man who writes a play merely to make money," he said.

Decline in Faith.
"Perpetual reduction of my audience is my hobby, if I may be said to have one. The larger the audience the more servile the dramatist. At the Abbey theater in Dublin, in which I am director, we have seats for 500. I hope some time to reduce this number to 50. This is the greatest problem of the stage today."

"There is no way of halting the literary commercialism of the time until we have a return to spiritual belief. You can understand why, can't you? If my being is going to be eternal and my handiwork is not I am going to insist on making my being as perfect as possible. Commercialism is due to a decline in

DRY LAW MEANS FREEDOM FROM WIFE TYRANNY

English Writer Sees Yankee Husband Throwing Off Yoke Of Penitent Actions After Usual Party.

By EARLE C. REEVES, *International News Service Staff Correspondent.*

London, April 17.—"Are Americans afraid of their wives?" is the bold theme which Richard Keverne chooses to discuss in the Daily Mirror.

They were—some of them are even yet—but a great masculinist movement is sweeping the states, Richard maintains, and this movement will soon free the enslaved sex.

"Rights for men are being demanded," he writes. "I take it that in the bad old days of demon rum when a man came home late from the club he had a sort of guilty feeling. He wanted to placate his wife.

"So, of course, he put up with anything for the sake of peace and a quiet life. He would return and say, 'Yes, dear, it's quite true that I did dine with Cyrus Jones, and as a matter of fact it was his birthday and we did have just one bottle, although, as you know, I didn't want it; but I saw some splendid hats in the new shop on Nine Thousand and Twenty-ninth street today, and I thought perhaps you might look in there tomorrow and buy a dozen or so."

"Then she would say: 'How sweet of you' or words to that effect. 'I was just dying for a new set of hats; now get on with sweeping the parlor, dear.'

"And there you are. Demon rum had riveted yet another fetter upon his victim.

"But that is all finished and done with now. The tired business man returns from his office sharp on time now. He has too much time on his hands.

"Now we all know the fate that lies in wait for idle hands. The tired business man promptly gets into mischief. He begins to revolt against his dollars and dust-chasing life. Living a perfect life with nothing to hide, it occurs to him that he will give up housework. Brooding over the situation he decides that he is a slave.

"And here we have the beginnings of a masculinist movement. 'Where this will lead it is hard to say. Perhaps the women will in self-defense vote America wet again. Already I read that they would like to be dominated for a change.'

To The Republican Voters Of Douglas County, Nebraska

We, the undersigned citizens and taxpayers of Douglas County hereby testify to the noble character and executive ability of Arthur D. Knight, candidate for the State Legislature. We cheerfully recommend him to the voters of our County, believing that he has all the qualifications of a first-class representative.

- Signed:
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 - F. A. Edquist, Swedish Consul.
 - G. A. Campbell, Secretary Y. M. C. A.
 - E. C. Henry, M. D.
 - Willis C. Crosby, Funeral Director.
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 - John M. Anderson, President Irvington Mills.
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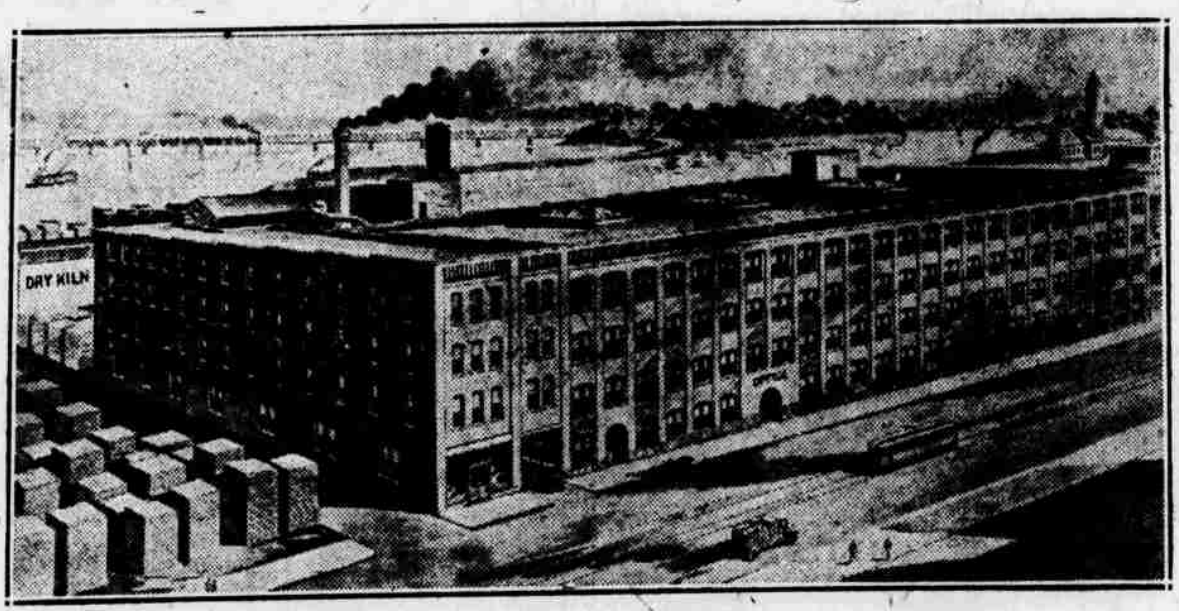
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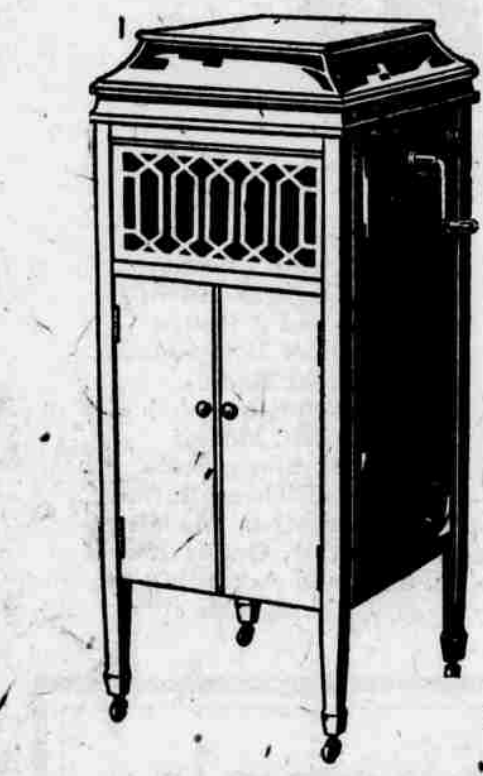
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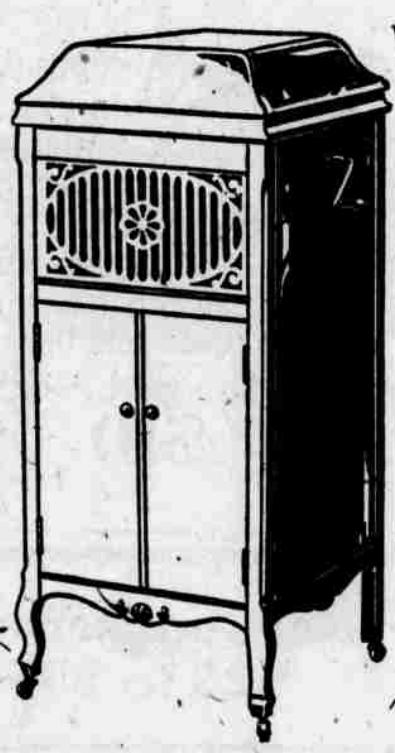


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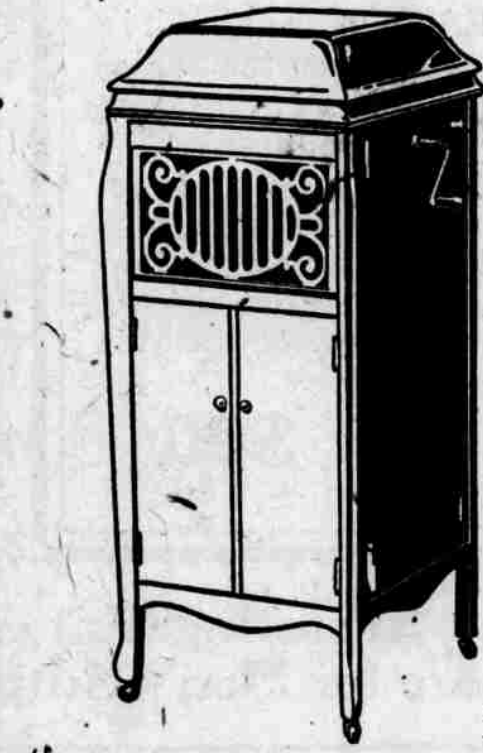
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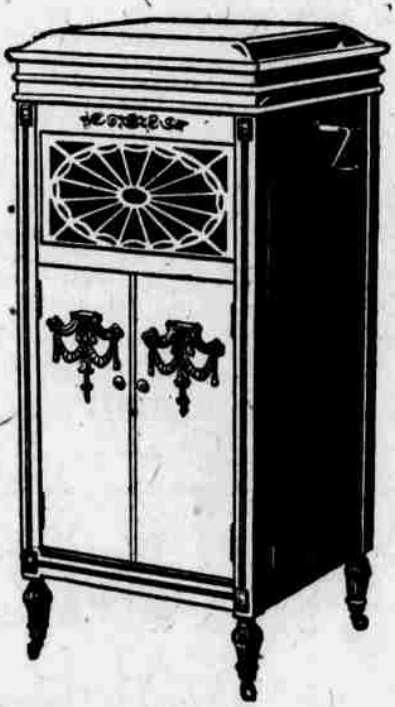
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