

**THE COURIER**

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**Random Gossip**

In this age of specialties there is danger of going beyond the limit of expediency and overspecializing. One extreme is generally as bad as the other; and there is genuine philosophy in the old warning not to put all your eggs into one basket. The difference between success and failure frequently depends upon the many things a man is able to take into his combinations a once. All these self-evident propositions did not prevent a Connecticut inventor from giving so much attention to the diving capacity of his submarine torpedo boat that he forgot the very necessary quality of being able to rise again. But the missing idea was driven into his head very effectively when he made his first experiment and found himself playing the McGinty act, with no prospect of a resurrection. By casting out all the ballast and part of the machinery the boat was finally brought to the surface and was towed into port by a plain, commonplace tug that knew enough to stay above water. When next the ambitious inventor goes below he will have a string attached to something on the surface so if he fails to come up his friends will at least know where to look for him.

Mayor Finer of Waukegan, Illinois, is a resolute man as well as original and resourceful in devices. When the tramps in the jail refused to work at the stonepile he ordered their feet shackled and their hands drawn through the bars of their cell doors and handcuffed together. In this position of enforced idleness they were compelled to remain all day, with only bread and water for their food. It is safe to say that tramps will hereafter give Waukegan a wide berth.

The Chinese empress declares that both herself and the emperor have "slept on wormwood and eaten gall," which may account for their being so bitter.

Don't have your laundry work done in New York City. A physician there sent out a note of warning that a leprous Chinese laundryman has escaped from Philadelphia and is now in New York, prepared to communicate germs without extra charge to all frayed collars and cuffs ready to do execution at the first opportunity. This world is getting almost too dangerous to live in.

How shall we get to cover? Irl Hicks predicts dire things for November; storm and wind and one cold wave after another. Astrologer Hines

of Central Falls, N. Y., declares that December will have two big snowstorms, with great loss at sea, from the 18th to the 21st. The winter will be the coldest in history. He knows, because a little comet told him so.

Missouri politics has long had a bad name, but the health conditions seem to be of the same order. The city of St. Louis furnishes anti-toxin to the physicians for diphtheria cases. Recently a number of children ill with diphtheria were treated with impure anti-toxin and developed tetanus, which proved fatal. Other children to whom anti-toxin was administered as a preventive also became ill with tetanus. As all the family, in cases of diphtheria, had to be treated, the tetanus-infected serum had a large field for development, and the invading microbes made the most of their opportunity. Where the responsibility for the fearful adulteration rests has not yet been determined; but it is pretty hard lines for the honest Missouri citizen when he must risk the danger of diphtheria, must also defy the law and be fined or imprisoned, or die in the agonies of lockjaw.

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