TURKISH TROOPS MARCHING THROUGH SALONICA.

Photograph by Underwood & Underwood, N. Y.

SLANG BY NO MEANS NEW

Familiar Phrase "Get the Hook" Has Come Down to Present Times From Long Ago.

"We are accustomed to having accepted ideas about the freshness and originality of our slang held up to the scorn and mockery of the initiated," said a member of a group of amateur archaeologists and antiquarians which meets regularly in one of the New York clubs.

"How often we have seized upon some newly coined phrase, some apparently unique product from the great popular language mint, and advanced it as a genuine invention of the day, only to discover that it was known to generations past in almost identical form and is truly an old coin restamped.

"Everybody is familiar with the phrase 'get the hook.' It has been established in current speech as a slang expression of peculiar vigor and terseness. Almost anyone could tell you that it originated in the amateur nights at popular vaudeville theaters where aspirants for fame are given a chance to try their powers upon an audience, and that it refers to the implement with which the stage manager brings about the actor's forcible exit when the audience can stand no more. Cat calls and jeers failing to extinguish the ardor of the performer, there is a demand for 'the hook' and the unhappy artist is dragged into the wings, willy nilly.

"From this application the phrase has come into general use for all occasions when one is bored or wearied of anything or anybody.

"Now on the face of it this looks like a truly modern bit of slang. It can be traced, apparently, to a modern custom and a modern method of entertainment. You would say, off hand, that 'the hook' is a genuine Americanism if ever there was one.

"Not at all. It is at least 19 centuries old, possibly older than that.

"Among the most interesting discoveries in the ruins of Pompeii, destroyed 79 A. D., are the inscriptions scratched upon the walls by idlers and street arabs, 'grafitti,' they are called.

"One of them reads as follows:

"'Puteolanis feliciter, omnibus Nucherinus felicia, et uncu(m) Pompeianis (et) Pitecusanis.'

"Which means, 'Hurrah for the Puteolaneans; good luck to all Nucerians; the hook for the Pompeians and Pithecusans.'"

CHOKED BIG DOG TO DEATH

New York Truck Driver Fought Vicious Newfoundland and Saved Several School Children.

With his bare hands, Harry Edise, 17 years old, fought and choked to death a Newfoundland dog, which had attacked several school children. Only the heroic work of Edise saved the children from being mangled by the savage animal, but he himself was badly bitten.

Edise is a truck driver. He was driving in Hinsdale street when he saw a group of children on their way from school at the noon hour, running and screaming. Following them was a great black dog, snapping at the little ones, but fortunately failing to fasten his teeth in any of them.

Edise was without a weapon of any kind, but he leaped from his truck, ran at the dog and kicked him. The brute immediately turned its attention to its assailant and leaping at Edise fastened its teeth in his left arm. Edise succeeded in breaking the hold when the dog again seized him, this time catching the fingers of his left hand.

With his free hand Edise grabbed the dog by the throat and despite its struggles, held on. The choking forced the animal to release its grip on the left hand of Edise, and he threw the beast to the sidewalk, knelt on it to prevent it squirming loose, and while a great crowd gathered and stood helpless he choked the animal to death.—New York Globe.

WORKING HOURS OF WOMEN

Several States Have Passed Laws Limiting Them to Sixty Hours or Less a Week.

During their last session the legislatures of several states passed new laws regulating the number of working hours for women. South Carolina passed a law limiting them to 60 per week in mercantile houses and the textile mills, of which there are so many in the state.

In Ohio and Massachusetts a 54-hour bill has been enacted. The Ohio bill applies to everything excepting hotels and mercantile establishments. Utah and Missouri have also passed nine-hour laws, says Health Culture. The ten-hour law which the legislature of Illinois enacted in 1909 is enlarged so as to include practically every kind of establishment where women are employed.

Wisconsin has established a 55-hour week, excepting night work, which is less. Minnesota has strengthened its ten-hour law by extending the penalty for violation so as to include manufacturing and mechanical establishments. The states of Washington and California have passed eight-hour day laws for women. The law of Washington applies to the usual mercantile and mechanical establishments, restaurants, hotels and laundries, but the California act applies also to telegraph, telephone, express and transportation offices.

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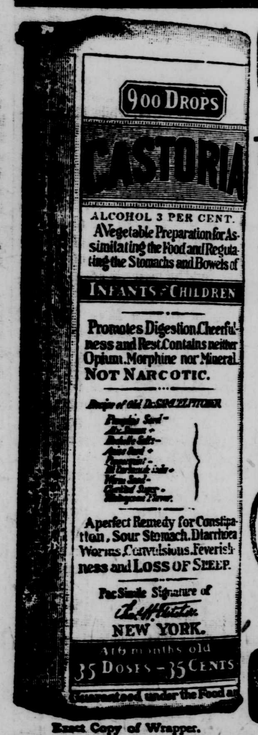

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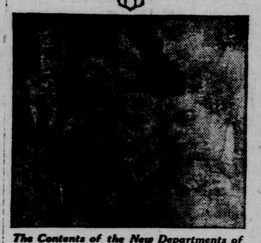
The Youth's Companion Larger and Better for 1911



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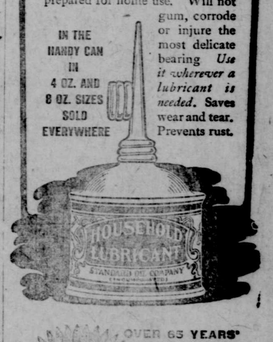

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