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# Ghost Witness in Court Trial

### Dead Woman Tells of Procuring Iron With Which Husband Killed Her.

## LIKE STORY OF OLDEN TIMES

### Supernatural Comes Again to Play Recognized Part in Affairs of Men in Country Which Calls Itself Civilized.

Washington, D. C.—A man is accused of beating his wife to death, and is brought before a high tribunal for trial. Judge and jurors and audience sit and listen in respectful silence while the ghost of the dead woman testifies that she herself procured the iron bar with which she was killed, that she had intended to kill her husband with it, and that he had great provocation to kill her.

This sounds like a story of olden times. It might have happened in any of the great ages of superstition when men believed in the supernatural even more than they did in the natural.

Civilization is supposed to have freed man from these ancient fears, but it has not done so. The fear is still latent in us, waiting for a chance to express itself. For example, the incident related above happened, not in the middle ages or in a fairy tale, but in the Supreme court of the District of Columbia a few days ago. The dead woman's mother testified that she had gone to several mediums, had conversed with the ghost of her daughter and had so gotten the daughter's story of what happened. Still more astonishing, she testified that an assistant United States attorney had advised her to consult mediums. When you take this in connection with the fact that the Supreme court evidently listened to the ghost conversation as part of the testimony, you cannot blink at the conclusion that a ghost has been admitted to a court of justice in the United States. The supernatural has come again to play a formal and recognized part in the affairs of men in a country which calls itself civilized.

**Spiritualism Involved.**

Of course, the whole question of spiritualism is here involved. There are many intelligent and sincere people who believe that the existence of ghosts who can communicate with us has been proved.

Out in the West there is a certain placer deposit of gold which has been the grave of many fortunes. One man after another has tried to get this gold, and all have failed. Finally, along came an inventor with a most ingenious and expensive plan for getting the gold. He had absolute faith in it. It appeared that he was in communication with the ghost of his dead sister, and that she had imparted this plan to him, and had told him it was sure to succeed. He spent every cent he owned and could borrow on the plan and lost it all. The ghost was wrong.

Here is another example of a meddlesome ghost who sought to make trouble. A young and attractive widow was invited by an older woman who lived in the same boarding house to join her in some ouija board excursions to the land of the dead. They immediately got into communication with the spirit of the young woman's dead husband. He proceeded to criticize her goings and comings at great length. He objected to the man she went with. He told her that such and such a man was immoral, that another ate cocaine, that a third had a wife living in Australia. He advised her to give up all frivolities and stay at home nights.

**Widow Is Troubled.**

The young widow was considerably troubled at first. But she had strong common sense. She reflected that even if spiritism was a true revelation, there were fake mediums, and her elderly friend might be one of them. She also reflected that her husband in life had been a jealous fellow, inclined to lie about all possible rivals, and she saw no reason to believe that death had reformed him. She was able to prove that some of the messages which had been sent her from "The Beyond" were not in accord with the facts.

When the next ouija board session came off, there was a struggle. Hubbie tried to get in some more advice, but the young widow had strong hands. Instead of hubby, it was the defunct aunt of her elderly friend who got the floor. This departed lady informed the elderly friend that she was in danger of serious financial reverses, that she was apt to die a violent death, probably by falling down stairs, that the rubber company in which she had bought three shares of stock was a swindle, and that if she did not drink less tea she would get cirrhosis of the liver. All of this threw the good woman into a sweat of apprehension; the ouija board readings were discontinued, and the dead husband lost his only means of communication with the world of the living, to the great relief of his widow.—Frederic J. Haskin in Chicago News.

A New York building engineer has demonstrated that large structures can be safely built on seashore towns by making concrete foundations.

# Give Sightless Equal Chance

### Placed on Same Footing as Seeing as Result of Doctor Wheeler's Observations.

## NO LONGER AN EXPERIMENT

### Blind Are Taught to Wind Electric Coils—Effect of Being Self-Supporting Keeps Them Healthy and in Good Spirits.

New York.—So many of the war-blinded have found work in the electrical manufacturing plant a means of supporting themselves, rendering them independent of any charity or philanthropic assistance, that special attention is being directed to the work of Dr. Schuyler Skaats Wheeler, who made possible this new field of gainful occupation for the sightless.

There is nothing new in the endeavor to enable the blind to work or even in the effort made to find a ready market for their product, but in the Crocker-Wheeler company's factory the unseeing work on an exact par with the seeing, their "goods," therefore, being placed in the open market.

Doctor Wheeler's interest in the problem of the blind, starting some years ago, became intensified when the war brought their numbers, both here and abroad, to a highly increased total. In going through the various departments of the company's electrical manufacturing plant at Ampere, N. J., of which he is president, he noted the fact that girls skilled in winding wire coils performed their work without watching the movements of their hands, as a touch typist or a piano player ignores her fingers. The coil-winding girls chatted and laughed among themselves as they worked, and their work was satisfactory. Doctor Wheeler then blindfolded himself and attempted to wind a coil. He proved to his own satisfaction that here was work which, with little practice, the sightless could do on a par with normal workers.

**Proves a Success.**

The Double Duty Finger Guild was the direct result. That is the name given to the department, employing only men and women without sight. This department has been in successful operation for three years in the Crocker-Wheeler factory, and it has ceased to be considered an experiment or even an innovation.

At first special instructors were engaged and a small group of blind were set to work at winding the wire coils. The members of this first group were paid during their apprenticeship 15 cents an hour and, after four weeks' instruction, were given places in the shops. Later the hourly rate of pay for trained workers was changed to a piecework plan and this proved more interesting and stimulating to the worker. At the factory it was said that a skilled blind worker earned from $3 to $4 a day at piecework.

More startling than the work in the coil-winding rooms is the handling of various kinds of machinery by the sightless. At the notching machines they put in metal plates and stamp them with the desired notches. Blind men also stack these plates, or "punchings," and weigh them.

Sightless typists and stenographers also are employed by the company. In the jobroom a special system of individual records keeps track of more than 2,000 jobs in process. Here a blind stenographer handles the phone calls coming in at spaced plugs down the length of the room, using a simple chair and typewriter stand on rollers, in which she travels up and down the line.

**A Blind Secretary.**

Miss Jessie Lewis, secretary to Mrs. Ida H. Gifford, director of the Double Duty Finger Guild, handles the stenographic work and filing in the guild's office. She is a graduate of the Perkins Institute for the Blind. Miss Lewis is the creator of the American Braille shorthand system. All her cards and records are marked in Braille, and she turns to a desired paper with the ease and promptness of a skilled sighted worker.

Most of the successful blind applicants for positions in the factory come from independent sources rather than institutions. The age limit is supposed to be forty-five, although older men from the state of New Jersey have been accepted. Two persons must guarantee one month's board and return carfare, in case the applicant does not "make good."

The worker stands absolutely on his own merit and soon learns to take pride in bringing his work up to the standard required by the factory inspectors.

Marked independence is shown by the sightless employees in handling their work and in moving about the factory and grounds. The effect upon them of being self-supporting and engaged in work which is the same as that done by normal persons and which must pass the same tests of inspection, works wonders in keeping them up to a healthy standard of good spirits and courage.

## Meeting the Housing Problem in Berlin

View down one of the streets of a "municipal village" constructed by the Berlin authorities to meet the shortage of houses.

# SANITATION BADLY NEEDED

### Spain Awakens to Necessity of Improved Hygiene.

### Movement Launched to Promote the Health of People by Modern Methods.

Madrid.—Spaniards are awakened to the necessity of improved hygienic measures to decrease the mortality of this country.

Several of the leading newspapers have joined in a demand that a ministry of health be organized to give proper attention to sanitary conditions in factories and houses, to reduce accidents to workers and to have charge of the erection of cheap houses for the poor, to provide old age pensions, health insurance, maternity allowances, prevention of epidemics and hygienic instruction for the people.

One newspaper quotes Doctor Juarros as having asserted that smallpox, diphtheria and tuberculosis had increased enormously, that births had decreased and the death rate among infants grown to such an extent that these deaths now comprise 20 per cent of the national mortality.

An infinitesimal number of houses boast of a bath, he said, public baths were entirely lacking, and the houses of the poor were so badly constructed that the occupants did not have as many conveniences as were afforded by the prison.

The Institute of Civil Engineers has taken up the subject and is agitating for hygienic measures to reduce the death rate.

**Crippled Dishwasher Is an Heir.**

Mitchell, S. D.—Harry Loft, twenty years old and a cripple, who has earned his living several months by washing dishes in a lunchroom, has left for Oakland, Cal., to receive his share of a large estate left by a relative of his deceased father.

### Builds His Pet Animals Fine Apartment House

Oakland, Cal.—High cost of building material and lack of accommodations for mere man were no deterrents to F. D. Stringham of Berkeley, who, out of consideration for his pets, built the animals a fine apartment house. The present tenants are apparently well satisfied, as to date they have registered no complaints.

The house has four apartments, the two on the ground floor being occupied by A. Beagle and Mr. Irish Setter, and one on the upper floor by Miss Persian Cat. The apartment adjoining Miss Cat's is said to be the only vacancy at present.

This is the ideal apartment house life, the meals being served from the Stringham kitchen, doing away with the servant problem for the tenants.

## Horticultural Facts

### UPS AND DOWNS IN PEACHES

### Prospective Crop Estimated to Be About 77 Per Cent of Normal—Acreage Decreased.

It is said that the law of compensation works both ways—if the rich man gets his ice in the summer the poor man gets his share in the winter. Averages of peach production appear to follow the same rule, according to the estimates just published by the bureau of crop estimates, United States department of agriculture.

Barring the possibilities of further disaster, the commercial peach orchards of Georgia and North and South Carolina will produce fairly heavy crops. California is scheduled for a bumper crop, and several other states will not be far below their 1919 average in car lot shipments of peaches, but these good prospects are more than offset by the frost damage inflicted upon the orchards in other states. Texas has been badly hurt, and so, also, have the Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Tennessee orchards. The New England crop is reported ruined, and Washington, Utah, and Idaho report severe winter killing. To some extent the prospective

Distributing Peaches By Machinery.

crop is still further diminished by the decrease in acreage devoted to commercial peach orchards.

Altogether the bureau of crop estimates figures the conditions on April 1, 1920, to be about 77 per cent of normal. There is a slight decrease from this figure during the growing season, usually about 10 per cent, which will presumably reduce this early estimate to 67 per cent when the crop is harvested and the final count taken. Last year the April estimate was given as 84 per cent, and the decrease was 9 per cent during the growing season. In terms of bushels the crop last year figured 29,240,000 bushels of fruit. Allowing for the normal 20 per cent decrease in 1920, the crop this fall will be short of last year's production by about 3,000,000 bushels, giving a total of 26,461,000 bushels for the coming harvest.

### REMOVE ALL VARIETY TAGS

### If Wire Is Permitted to Remain It Slowly Girdles Tree, Eventually Causing Death.

In setting out young fruit trees the variety tag is often left tied to the tree so that the tree may be identified by its variety name in later years. This, however, generally causes more trouble and injury to the tree than the knowledge in knowing what particular variety the tree represents. Frequently a young tree two or three years old will be seen with the wire and tag around the main limb, but the wire imbedded in the growth of the tree to such an extent that when it is removed the top of the tree may die or if the wire is left on the tree it is simply a slow girdling process until the entire top of the tree is dead.

## HORTICULTURAL NOTES

Berries are fruits that most people relish. This is especially true of strawberries.

* * *

The best soil for apple trees is a medium-heavy clay loam soil and well drained. A good many soils are not suitable for an apple orchard.

* * *

Peach trees can be pruned to increase vigor in the late fall as soon as most of the leaves are loose upon the twigs and beginning to fall freely.

* * *

Those who have given thought to peach growing know that as soon as the fertility of the soil begins to fail the crop is uncertain and of poor quality.

* * *

Prune grape vines enough to give plenty of room for each vine so that light and air may get in around them. Most varieties are inclined to produce too much wood.

* * *

Prune the grape vines as soon as the leaves fall. Pick up and burn all twigs, branches and trimmings of vine and orchards.

* * *

Those who are to plant orchards would do well to made all arrangements to plant in the fall rather than in the spring.

* * *

Before setting any number of trees, talk the matter over with your neighbors and see what kind of fruit, and which varieties of each kind, do best in your section.


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