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REVIEW OF REVIEWS.

The *Review of Reviews* begins a new volume with one of its characteristic numbers—a publication that could never by any possibility be mistaken from any other magazine in the world—128 pages as full of real "news" as the morning paper and yet as solid and well considered as the best of the foreign quarterlies. Venezuela is very much at the front at the opening of the new year, and the *Review* not only gives space to a valuable editorial discussion of the British and German claims and the proposed modes of adjustment, but opens its pages to a full presentation of the case of the powers against the little South American state, as set forth by Mr. A. Morris Low, a well-informed Washington journalist. The "man of the month" in international affairs is our minister to Venezuela, Mr. Herbert W. Bowen. A character sketch of this typical diplomat of the American school, written, it is understood, by an intimate personal acquaintance, forms a noteworthy feature of the January *Review*. Among the subjects engaging the attention of Congress hardly one can be named that is more important in its bearings on the public welfare than the question of protecting the grazing lands of the West, from which comes the national meat supply. This is the theme of the authorative and judicious article from the pen of Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews, who has made a special study of the Western cattle situation. Dr. Andrews' article is accompanied by an exhaustive inquiry into the present advance in beef prices by Mr. Fred C. Croxton, of the national Department of Labor. Another of the problems before Congress—that of the currency—is clearly outlined in a paper by Charles A. Conant describing the expedients recently resorted to by the Treasury to relieve the stringency in the money market. The rural free delivery service, the advantages of which were emphasized in President Roosevelt's message to Congress, is the subject of an illustrated article by Day Allen Willey. The other topics of discussion in Congress are fully treated in the opening editorial department of the magazine, "The Progress of the World." In the field of British politics, Mr. W. T. Stead contributes a clarifying *resume* of the debate over the education bill, which has just been passed in Parliament. The late Speaker Reed is the subject of an appreciative tribute by Henry B. F. McFarland. Mrs. Elisabeth Carden contributes an illustrated article on "Friedrich Albert Krupp—the Essen Philanthropist," supplemented by a paper on "The Krupps and their Steel Works at Essen" by Miss R. H. Knorr. The place of the regular cartoon department is taken this month by a sketch of Thomas Nast, the dean of American caricaturists, who died the other day in South America. Mr. Ernest Knaufft is the writer of this sketch, which is illustrated with some of Mr. Nast's famous cartoons.

FLOWERS AND HONEY BEES.

New Discoveries in Regard to Relation of Insects and Plant Life.

Careful study has revealed the fact that the relation between flowers and bees is more complicated than was ever believed. The eating or gathering of honey is not peculiar to the bee alone, but is indulged in by wasps, hornets, flies, ants, humming-birds and other animal species. Probably all of these carry pollen from one blossom to another and bring about the fertilization so needful to the perpetuation of plant life.

The short-billed hummingbirds are found to carry away pollen upon the feathers of the head, while bumblebees and several species of hornets often rival the honey bee in the completeness wherewith they rub off pollen from every flower.

Recent investigations seem to indicate that the production of honey is not natural to flowers, but is the result of a pathologic process based on the action of an animal ferment introduced into the base of the petal from the saliva or other secretion of a bee. The sap of the petal contains a very small amount of sugar, but larger quantities of soluble and insoluble starch. A slight scratch or perforation will cause an exudation of this sap, which is not particularly sweet, and not at all like honey. But if to this sap be added a ferment, such as ptyalin, or yeast, the starch and, it may be, a small amount of cellulose are converted into glucose, and a saccharine fluid is the result.

The fact seems to be utilized by the honey bee. On entering a flower he apparently scratches or abrades the base of the petals near the sap vessels, moistens the raw surface with saliva or other secretion, gathers honey and flies on to the next flower. In the ensuing 24 hours a globule of sap foams on each abrasion in which the starchy elements have undergone a fermentation into sugar.

The flavor of the honey depends partly on the flower and partly on the ferment It is the latter which causes all honey to taste more or less alike, and which prevents the western manufacturers from making a good artificial honey out of glucose. They can imitate the color, consistence, and even the floral flavor perfectly, but the so-called honey flavor has never yet been obtained.—*New York Evening Post.*

MEDICAL MISSIONARIES IN AFRICA.

Medical missionaries and their assistants find it is usually comparatively easy to pass from the subject of bodily sickness to soul sickness, but in the following from North America, the worker was invited to go beyond the strict realm of rational medicine, says Mercy and Truth, a record of the C. M. S. Medical Mission work: "'Senora, can't you give me some medicine to make my husband love me?' is the pitiful question which has been put to me lately by several women. 'He hates me, senora, says he will divorce me and get another wife; and I, whatever shall I do if he does? Hasn't the *tabeeb* (doctor) got some medicine to make him love me, senora?' 'Well, no; we don't exactly keep that kind in the "house of medicine,"' I answered; and looking round the filthy, dirty huts, and glancing at the ragged, untidy women before me, I thought it was not much wonder if their respective husbands did not regard them with affection, and threatened to get other wives in their place. 'But I will tell you what to do to make your husbands love you if you like, and that will be just the same as medicine.' 'Oh, yes, yes—let us hear what that is.' So they crowd around to hear 'the voice of the oracle,' and I proceed: 'In the first place, as soon as your husband goes out in the morning, you must get up and sweep the hut, lay down clean matting, and shake the cushions and mattresses. Then clean the tea-tray, rub it up, and make it shine like gold. Wash the glasses also, and clean the teapot. Put the water on to boil, so that when St. Mohammed comes in he will not have to wait long for his tea. Then wash your own dirty face and hands, put on a clean garment and your best sash, arrange a nice kerchief on your hair, and put on all your necklaces, earrings and bracelets. When all is done, and the time comes for your husband to return, just sit on a cushion and look sweet Try that, and you will find he will love you, and talk no more of divorcing you.' The women gazed at each other in doubt at first, then smile, and finally scream with laughter. 'Good, senora,' they answered, we will try that.' This afternoon, as I gave this prescription, in one of the better class, but most dirty and neglected looking houses, to a deeply interested group of women, the master himself came in—a noble-looking old man with a long white beard—and reclined on a mattress, gravely listening. 'Thou hast the truth, O my daughter,' he cried; 'that is the medicine to make us love our wives.'"

Flimsy English Buildings.

It used to be affirmed that English building, if tardier, was more thorough than American. But this view of the case will no longer serve. American building is decidedly more thorough and serviceable. I have yet to find a house in all London which is not the prey of drafts. Indeed, the horrible dampness of English winters might be shorn of its worst bedroom, sitting-room and dining room terrors if houses were more solidly put together. In the older parts of the West End this shell-like quality of structures constantly surprises and annoys the foreigner. It is all very well for him if he comes here to spend a few summer weeks. Then he lauds the "delicious coolness" of the climate and fails to realize that in winter stealthy air currents would creep upon him from every quarter. There are hundreds of houses in the smart regions of Portland Place, Bayswater, Knightsbridge and Kensington where an utter lack of repair prevails, where sometimes the wind almost whistled below the ill-jointed doors, and where gas is often absent from all but one or two apartments. And yet for lodgings in these houses prices are at all times asked which a New Yorker would regard in his own city as the quintessence of extortion.—*Conservator.*

Old-Time Remedies.

In the family Bible of a Roxborough man there are a number of medical rules, written over seventy years ago by the great-grandmother of the Bible's present owner. Among the rules are the following:

"A stick of brimstone worn in the pocket is good for them as has cramps.

"A loadstoan put in the place where the pane is; is beautiful for the Rheumatiz.

"If you have hiccoughs, pinch one of your wrists while you count sixty, or get somebody to scare you and make you jumpe.

"The earache—Put onion in ear after it is well roasted.

"The consumption—Eat as many peanuts as possible before going to bed."—*Philadelphia Record.*

Charcoal Eph's Daily Thought.

"W'en er man git so good dat he cyan't go t' church 'dout sittin' up in de Amen co'nah disturbin' de peace," said Charcoal Eph, pleasantly retrospective, "hit am advisable fo' t' see dat he ain' holdin' no chewin' gum in his han' when he drap er dime in de basket, Mistah Jackson."

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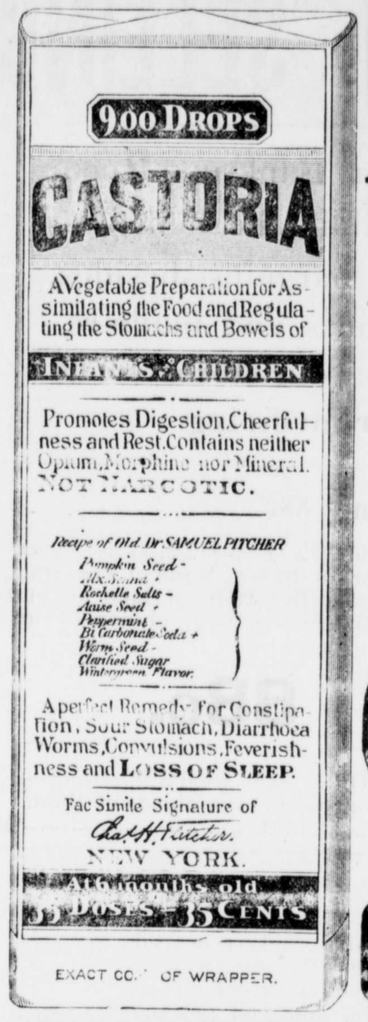

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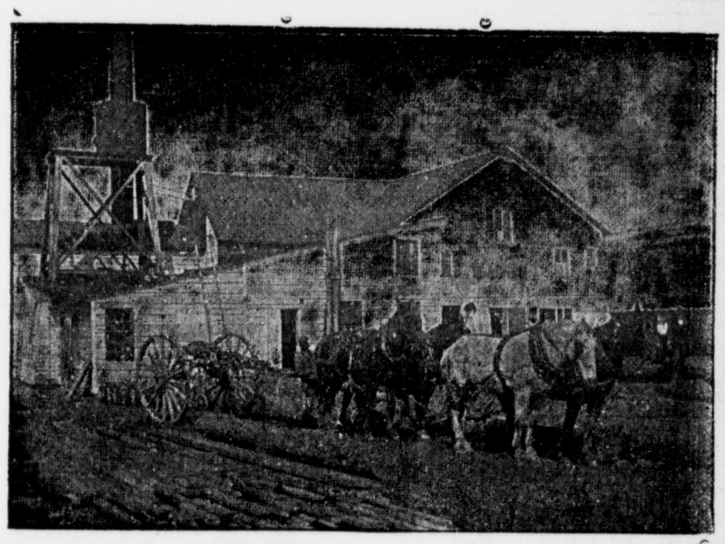

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