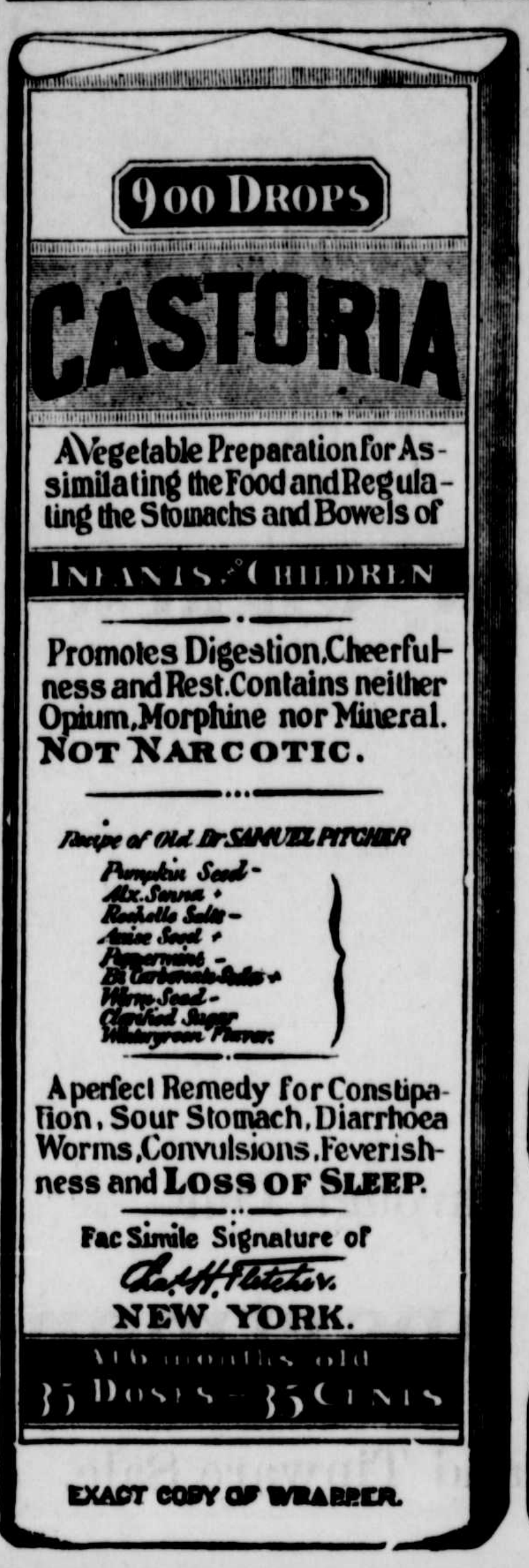

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Clover, Alsyke, Timothy, Orchard Grass,
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NEW YEAR'S IN THE ORIENT

The Greetings and the Presents in China and Japan.

The most wonderful ceremonies connected with the new year occur in China and Japan. A Chinese city presents a busy and attractive spectacle on New Year's day. The streets are thronged with people dressed in gala attire. The mandarins are known by the red, blue, white and gilt balls on their caps. Gentlemen of rank and wealth are carried in palanquins. When friends meet they greet each other with "Kung-hi! Kung-hi!" which means, "I respectfully wish you joy." But instead of shaking hands in the American fashion each grasps his own hands, lifts them as high as his chin and with a sweeping motion throws them down as low as possible, bending the body at the same time. This is the mode of salutation among the Chinese. At the dawn of New Year's day the visits of congratulation begin, and New Year's gifts are sent to particular friends, always accompanied by a visiting ticket of red paper, on which are written the name of the donor and a list of the presents sent. These consist usually of silks, fine tea, sweetmeats, ornaments of personal wear, toys and souvenirs of various kinds. In Japan the custom is to send letters on rice paper to those in distant places, conveying the formal expression of the New Year's greetings. Presents of cooked rice, roasted peas, oranges and figs are offered to every one.—Leslie's Weekly.

ABUSE OF INDOORS.

We Rely Too Much on the Protection of Our Houses.

Houses were made for shelter, not for confinement; for freedom, not restraint. They were intended to enlarge our sphere of activities, not to diminish them.

They foster the family and make progress possible, but we should not abuse their protection. We have crawled away into their still and comfortable recesses, slept in their dry, clean chambers, toasted ourselves over their sheltered fires, read by their unflickering lights and eaten from their bountiful boards so long that we are grown pale, timid, peevish and thankless withal.

We have kept ourselves away from the wind and the sun and the lashing rain, from the feel of the earth underfoot and the sense of the leaves and stars overhead until we no longer know the keen and simple joys of being alive. We have set up barriers against the inclemency of nature and cowered before her severe austerity until now we have forgotten how indispensable is all her kindly nurture, how tonic her rugged ways, how full of solace her assuaging calm.

Houses were only made to live in when it is too cold or too hot or too wet to live out of doors. Any other time out of doors is best. To sleep out of doors for a month is better than a trip to Europe.—Bliss Carman in Craftsman.

Facts About Building Stone.

Almost everybody knows the rule of the masons that stone used in building should be so placed that it will lie as it lay in its natural bed when quarried. But Francis W. Hoyt in the Engineering News says that this familiar rule is not always to be depended upon and needs in many cases to be supplemented with other precautions. There are three planes of fracture known to quarrymen. The rift is the direction in which the stone splits most easily, the grain that which is next easiest, the head that which offers the greatest resistance. In a paving block the two sides represent the rift fracture, the top and bottom the grain and the ends the head. But in a quarry the natural bed is sometimes considerably inclined to the plane of the rift; hence the imperfection of the ordinary rule for placing the stone in building.

Ysleta.

St. Augustine, Fla., founded by the Spaniards in 1564, is generally said to be the oldest European settlement within the present limits of the United States, but some twenty or thirty years earlier Coronado, the Spanish conqueror and explorer, leading an expedition from the City of Mexico northward, had founded some sort of a Spanish colony at the ancient Indian village of Ysleta, in El Paso county, Tex. In the southwest it is therefore claimed that Ysleta is the oldest European settlement in the United States.—St. Louis Republic.

Good Answer.

A theological student supposed to be deficient in judgment was asked by a professor in the course of a class examination:

"Pray, Mr. E., how would you discover a fool?"

"By the questions he would ask," was the rather stunning reply.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Don't Grow Stale!

Many a man bewails his lack of success in life after he has permitted himself to get into a rut. While dreaming of success he has been as blind as a bat and slower than two snails. He blocked his own way.—Manchester Union.

Dig From a Friend.

"How old is your husband, dear?"

"Forty. There's ten years' difference between us."

"You surprise me! I should never have thought you fifty years old."—Figaro.

It is seldom that punishment, though lame of foot, has failed to overtake a villain.—Horace.

SEED TIME

The experienced farmer has learned that some grains require far different soil than others; some crops need different handling than others. He knows that a great deal depends upon right planting at the right time, and that the soil must be kept enriched. No use of complaining in summer about a mistake made in the spring. Decide before the seed is planted.

The best time to remedy wasting conditions in the human body is before the evil is too deep rooted. At the first evidence of loss of flesh
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should be taken immediately. There is nothing that will repair wasted tissue more quickly or replace lost flesh more abundantly than Scott's Emulsion. It nourishes and builds up the body when ordinary foods absolutely fail.

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London's First Balloon Ascent.

When Lunardi made the first balloon ascent from London in 1784 he had for fellow passengers a cat, a dog and a pigeon. Such was the excitement caused by this ascent that a jury, deliberating on the fate of a criminal, returned a hasty verdict of acquittal in order not to miss the spectacle, while King George III. broke up a meeting of his council to watch the progress of the balloon. It was in the following year, 1785, that an adventurous Dublin undergraduate, Mr. Maguire, made a balloon ascent and was actually knighted by the lord lieutenant for his courage.

Don't Be a Sensitive Plant.

The sensitive plant is found in the church. The pastor has a difficult time keeping him in humor to do church work. The sensitive plant is found in political circles. The candidates must handle him with gloves. The sensitive plant is found in all avenues of human activity. Most generally he is a nuisance. Don't be one.—Columbia Herald.

An Awful Realisation.

First Tramp (shuddering with terror and clasping his companion's arm)—Say, Ike, look at wot that there sign says, I wisht ye would! Second Tramp—Wot sign, Aleck? First Tramp—W'y, that there sign on de big brick buildin' It says "Iron woiks," Ike, an' we've got iron in our blood! I wonder is it woikin' now.—Chicago News.

A Craven's Haven.

Mrs. Hicks (relating burglar scare)—Yes, I heard a noise and got up, and there under the bed I saw a man's legs. Mrs. Wicks—Mercy! The burglar's? "No; my husband's. He had heard the noise too."—Boston Transcript.

East and West.

The chief distinction between the genius of the eastern civilization and that of the west, according to an oriental, lies in this: With you the individual is the hub of the universe—even charity begins at home with you—while with us of the east it is the whole, the state, not the individual, that we emphasize. An individual is nothing; the state, the whole, is everything. We sacrifice thousands of individuals, we sacrifice our children and our wives upon the altar of national honor, without hesitation, without regret.—Forum.

His Deep Grief.

Visitor—I do hope that poor Jack, your brother, does not grieve too much at my having broken our engagement. I feel sure he must be very unhappy. What did he say, dear? The Sister—Oh, he said what a lucky thing it was you broke it off this week instead of next, as it saved him from having to buy you a birthday present!

By the Pound.

Little Elsie—Mamma, how much do people pay a pound for babies? Mamma—Babies are not sold by the pound, my dear. Little Elsie—Then why do they always weigh them as soon as they are born?—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Some Reduction.

"Then the doctor didn't succeed in reducing your weight?"

"Why, not very much, but he left me with quite an attenuated pocket book."

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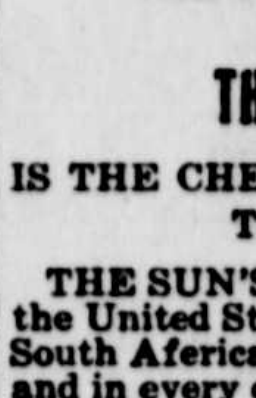

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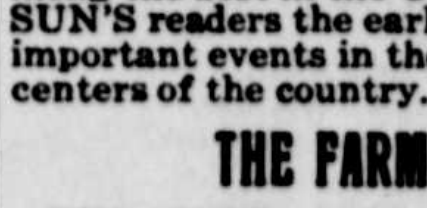

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