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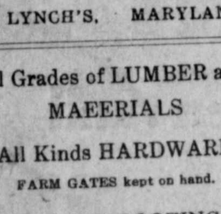
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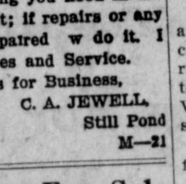
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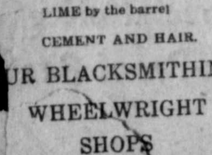
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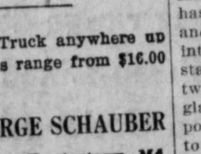
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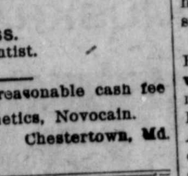
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The Higher Mathematics

By H. IRVING KING

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HORACE G. KILTON was a mathematician, wore glasses and was rather lean and lanky. Mathematicians are apt to get that way, somehow. He was young, too—only twenty-eight—so there was time for improvement. Mabell Streeter was younger yea—just twenty—and you couldn't have improved on her if you had tried. She was about perfect, just as she was—only she was no mathematician. She took the multiplication table on faith; though that faith was sorely tried when she attempted to put the said table into practical use.

But then there was no especial reason why Mabell should toy with the multiplication table any more than with the fourth dimension, or the doctrine of least squares. By concentrating her mind upon it she could keep a fairly accurate count at bridge—and that was sufficient. Until she met Horace: then she keenly felt her deficiencies and longed for logarithms. Horace was instructor in the academy on the hill and Mabell was the belle of the town. It was strange how these two so opposite people inclined to each other. Mabell, of course, was active in all the "uplift" work of the community and was made treasurer of all the societies she joined—her accounts were so accurately kept!

The fact was that if left to her own devices the various societies of which Mabell was treasurer would never have been able to find out whether they were in a plutocratic or a "busted" condition. But Horace cast his astigmatic gaze over the accounts, made a few mental lightning calculations, and had them all "ship shape and Bristol fashion" in something rather less than three shakes of a lamb's tail.

Now Mabell's father, Sam Streeter, was a man of wealth and varied financial interests; and looked frowningly upon the intimacy between his daughter and the poorly paid teacher from the academy. "You'll have to cut out that four-eyed calculating machine," said the fond parent to his daughter. "I hear he only gets twelve hundred dollars a year and is never likely to get a raise."

"Oh pa, how cruel you are!" replied Mabell. "Horace is in his profession because he loves it."

"Don't let me see him hanging about here any more," snapped Mr. Streeter.

But Horace hung around as usual. Mabell was a good girl, but obstinate. Old Streeter glared at the mathematician whenever they met and treated him very rudely indeed—the more so that the rich man was just now in a highly irritable state consequent upon his attempt to make out his income-tax returns himself instead of hiring a lawyer to do it—for Streeter was tight-fisted and lost no chance to save money.

"Oh father," cried Mabell when, in a moment of weakness, her father had confided to her the cause of his irritability, "why don't you get Horace to help you? He is simply wonderful. Why, he even understands the Goldstein theory."

"Bosh!" remarked Streeter, and flung out of the house.

When he came home that evening there was Horace, as usual, beaming benignly through his glasses at Mabell. "I'll settle that young man's hash here and now," thought Streeter and said: "Mr. Kilton, please step into the library. No, Mabell—you stay right where you are." When the two men were alone together Streeter glared at the mathematician and said pompously: "I wish to speak plainly to you concerning your attentions to my daughter. My conduct toward you has been such that one would have supposed—"

"Oh, that's all right," broke in Horace cheerfully; "Mabell told me what was the matter. You are worried over your income-tax returns. Perfectly simple, I assure you, sir. All that is required, even in the most complicated cases, is the application of the mere rudiments of mathematics. I have just made out my own returns and happen to have them with me. I was intending to mail them on my way home." He drew an envelope from his pocket and from the envelope extracted the documents.

"You will observe, sir," went on Horace spreading the filled-up forms on the table, "that"—and he went into a careful and scientific explanation. Streeter did not understand the explanation; but he did understand that the supposedly poor mathematician was a wealthy man who had inherited large properties.

"Quite so, quite so," said he when Horace had run down. "As I was saying about you and Mabell, why, if she is satisfied, and you want her—why take her. As to those infernal tax returns of mine—here—just cast your eyes over them."

In half an hour by the clock Horace had Streeter's income tax all straightened out and was holding hands with Mabell on the parlor sofa.

Lepers Want Newspaper

Patients at the leper colony of Kalaupapa, on Molokai island, in the Hawaiian group, have applied for permission to issue a newspaper. Several wealthy residents of the community have offered to finance it. The unfortunate inmates feel it would be a boon to them.

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Dorothy Devore



Popular Dorothy Devore, "movie" star, in her most recent picture, is wearing jewelry which she advises is fashionable for evening occasions. She says, "Jewelry itself is always beautiful, but it is an asset only when it helps bring out your good points."

AN ABBREVIATED STORY

BLOTTER PADDOCK

BLOTTER PADDOCK gulped with a miserable glooping sound.

"Is there—is there someone else?" he husked.

She nodded perpendicularly.

"Yes," she admitted, and added defiantly, "Frivol Sassoon."

"Frivol Sassoon!" he repeated scornfully. "Gladys, you must be mad! Frivol Sassoon is a cad, a bounder, a mutt, an unscrupulous rascal, an unmitigated boob, a dolt and a jackass. He snores, scrapes his feet when he walks, tells terrible falsehoods and doesn't pay his bills. You must be mad, mad!"

Her rather short but fascinating upper lip curled sneerously.

"Do you think it is very sportsmanlike," she asked coldly, "to run down a rival, no matter how successful?"

He bit his lip, then let it go again, for it was his lip, he realized, after all.

"I accept the rebuke," he said meekly. "I—I apologize, Glady's not only to you, but to that unspeakable poltroon Frivol Sassoon. And—and—Gladys, if ever he fails to pay you your wages (as he surely will, the indescribable crook) say you will come and cook for me and Mrs. Paddock!"

Moved more than she cared to say by his emotion, she nodded gently and swept away Sassoonward.

(© by George Matthew Adams.)

Electrified Country

Schoharie valley, one of the most fertile sections of New York state, is rapidly becoming an electrified countryside. A network of electric distribution lines covering approximately 50 miles provides the farmers of this section with water-power produced electricity and additional electric service lines are being erected all the time.

Among the NOTABLES

DU BARRY

BORN August 19, 1746, of a poor woman, in the little French town of Vancouleurs, and rising to be mistress of Louis V, and really ruler of France—such is the career of Marie Jeanne Du Barry.

She was placed in a convent in Paris, and at sixteen entered a milliner's shop. Here her beauty began to bring her notice, and her frank, sweet manners brought all the young dandies and titled men flocking round her. Morality was a cheap thing, then, it seems. At all events, the girl willingly went to live in the house of an adventurer, Jean du Barry, where her presence drew a big circle of men whose money he won by gambling. The brother of Jean was persuaded to become her nominal husband—so the girl became the Comtesse Jeanne Du Barry, and was duly presented at court.

From that time, she ruled Louis XV absolutely, up to the very day of his death. Courtiers and ministers existed by her favor alone. Louis lavished jewels on her and built her a wonderful palace at Luciennes. After his death, she was banished, but the queen interceded and Du Barry was given a pension and permission to live on at her palace. Benjamin Franklin, and all the other celebrities of the time, visited her here, and were charmed by her gracious ways and quick wit. She was one of the victims of the Revolution and was beheaded in Paris in 1793.

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Silvertip Showed How It Could Cover Ground

Any one who has seen a bear walk knows how slowly he seems to move, and his run is a shuffling, lumbering gait that is comical to witness, unless he happens to be running after you. But a bear moves pretty fast, notwithstanding appearances, and the grizzly, which looks to be clumsier than the brown or the black bear, can cover ground faster than the average horse.

A western sheep rancher was riding in the foothills when he saw a big, awkward silvertip. He had a rifle, but was not certain he could kill the bear at one shot and knew that he would get into trouble if he missed. So he gave a regular cowboy yell, and the bear started away in alarm.

The man gave chase, at the same time keeping up the piercing yell, and he soon noticed that the grizzly was getting farther away. He continued the chase for nearly two miles, until the bear disappeared in the mountains, and he had not gained a foot.

In going back over the trail he noticed places where the bear had made jumps of 15 or 20 feet, and the ground had been cut up by his claws, so that it looked as if a harrow had been run over it.

No Longer Satisfied With Looker-On Role

Bobby, age five, sitting with majesty in the barber's chair, gazed with scorn upon his sister, age seven.

"I asked for you to come with us," he remarked haughtily, "so you could look at me while I have my hair cut. And you are not looking!"

Oh, but there was accusation, dire reproach in his youthful fury.

"I am tired of looking. I don't want to look any more. I want my own hair cut," sniffed sister. "It is your turn to look at me."

Bobby's lip quivered. Traitorous, jealous sister. . . . Say, just wait till he got her home. He'd pull her hair.

It's happening all over the world in every age, in every walk of life. Sister is tired of looking. . . .

Genius Poorly Rewarded

The discovery of the correct position and physiological function of the heart, when announced by Andreas Vesalius, the Belgian master of anatomy, was received on the one hand with cold skepticism, and on the other with hot opposition. Slowly, grudgingly, the worth of it was recognized. Reward, in proper measure, was not given. But it provided the stepping-stone enabling William Harvey to discover the circulation of the blood.

Vesalius was a native of Antwerp, his period being 1514-1564. At fourteen he was a student of medicine in Louvain; at twenty he was in Venice, and the year following became public demonstrator at Padua. In Bologna he gained a professorship and in Pisa a similar chair. At twenty-eight his incomparable treatise on human anatomy appeared.—London Graphic.

Each Crop Grows Better

Most of the cork we make use of comes from Spain, although some other countries of southern Europe or northern Africa furnish some.

The first coat of bark to be removed is known as "virgin" cork, and is too coarse to be of much use except for tanning purposes. After the first stripping, the operation is repeated every eight or ten years, as the new bark forms, and cork of an improved quality is obtained each time. The second "crop" is good enough for making life belts, insulating material and the like, but is not sufficiently smooth and elastic for the manufacture of bottle stoppers, which are made from the best grades of cork only.

A mature tree will yield about 100 to 150 pounds of cork at each stripping.

Meant as "Slam" at Author?

What might be called a "reader's prize" was recently awarded a London book collector under conditions of the most perfect impartiality.

The reader in question, who is an inveterate hunter for bargains in first editions, had invested in an old copy of "Paul and Virginia," which he was attentively perusing. He read through the book and, somewhere toward the end, discovered that two pages were stuck together. Separating them with a penknife he found between them several French bank notes totaling 5,000 francs and the following note pencilled on the margin of the page:

"Earnest reader and friend of this book who hast read thus far, thou dost merit this reward."—From La Bulgarie, Sofia. (Translated for the Kansas City Star.

Older Than History

An old encampment, so old that history has no record of when it was built, has been presented to the British nation.

This is Cissbury ring, near Worthing, high up on the South downs within sight of both the Isle of Wight and Beachy head.

The camp covers 80 acres, but its greatest interest is not in its fortified earthworks, the finest in the district, but as a factory for flint instruments established by Stone age man. His factory consists of two shafts sunk to the level of the flint rock, and joined by a tunnel. Quantities of arrow heads and a number of tools have been found in these shafts.—Family Herald.

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