First Concrete Poured by New Orleans Priest?

Toward the end of the Nineteenth century a French gardener made basins by pouring concrete around a network of iron rods, and until very recently that gardener had been credited with having originated the idea of reinforced concrete.

Not until the summer of 1928 was the claim disputed. Then it was discovered that in 1853 a Jesuit priest of New Orleans had anticipated him. A church on Baronne street, built in that year, was demolished. It had been erected on land reclaimed from a cypress swamp; and when it was torn down the construction of its foundation walls stood bare.

The priest, acting as his own architect, had poured a concrete of crushed oyster shells and bricks around strong iron bars, running from top to bottom of the walls, and held in place with wrought-iron hoops.

No written record of it was left, yet that idea is fundamental to the modern skyscraper.—Silas Bent in World's Work.

Changing Signs

It is suggested that the way things are going now, some bond houses may change the signs on the doors to read "Stock and Bond Brokers," which recalls the story of the man who opened a bucket shop in the West.

"What kind of a sign do you want on your door?" asked the sign painter engaged to do the work.

"Oh, just John Smith, Broker," replied the bucket shopper.

"Why don't you make it 'Banker and Broker?'" suggested the enterprising sign painter.

"How much would it cost?" inquired Smith.

"About $2," replied the painter.

"Go to it," instructed Broker Smith. "Who wouldn't be a banker for $2?"—Wall Street Journal.

Branding Sheep

Sheep are branded with paint and not with hot irons as cattle are. The fleece grows out so that hot-iron brandings would be covered up. Sheep must be branded every time they are fleeced. The branding of sheep is more common in the range countries than in the farm states, as sheep are usually kept under fence on farms, and there is not much need of branding. Special branding paint should be used instead of just any kind of tar or barn paint, so as to reduce to a minimum the trouble of scouring the wool. Manufacturers prefer that the brand be placed on sheep where the wool is of the least value, such as on top of the rump.

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Five Simple Rules for Keeping Good Health

Practical inference from the views of an eminent physician are so simple that they are almost trite, and yet they are fundamental. If you want to keep out of the repair shop and make your own body "tick" vigorously and regularly, don't rely on drugs, but co-operate with nature in five ways:

1—Drink an abundance of water to keep your cells in condition.

2—Sleep at least eight hours out of each 24 to maintain your batteries.

3—Regulate your diet carefully so your body will be adequately nourished, and don't "dig your grave with your teeth" by overeating.

4—Get plenty of fresh air, especially when you are sleeping.

5—Exercise regularly to rebuild worn tissues, increase blood circulations and develop new cells.

If these five simple rules were honestly and thoroughly observed for several generations as vigorously as the Jews have obeyed the laws of hygiene handed down by Moses, druggists and doctors would eventually be obliged to seek other occupations, and the world would be populated by a very much superior race of human beings. —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Omission or Usage of Comma Highly Important

A jury in New Jersey that heard the evidence against two men accused of murder returned a verdict finding one guilty of murder in the first degree, and the other guilty of murder in the second degree with a recommendation of leniency. A comma separated the two findings, and this was held by another court to prevent the recommendation for mercy from applying to the first degree finding, though the attorney for the killer insisted that a semicolon should have been used if that were the jury's intention.

Commas are, therefore, seen to be important whether used or omitted. It is a curious situation when courts are called on to decide the meaning of a contract drawn, or at least revised, by an attorney, especially such a contract as an insurance policy which may control the distribution of thousands of dollars.

What Makes Our Friends

It is not seeing one's friends, having them within reach, hearing of and from them, which makes them ours. Many a one has all that, and yet has nothing. It is the believing in them, the depending on them, assured that they are good and true to the core, and therefore could not but be good and true toward everybody else, ourselves included.—Dinah Mulock Craik.



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Goodby! Good Luck!

By JOHN SMITH

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"IT'S the chance of a lifetime!" said John Bates. Then, as other considerations came to mind, "In a way," he added thoughtfully.

His fellow physician, Chester Hayes, regarded him quizzically. "You mean?"

"If one had no ties at home," said the other frankly.

"That's right," agreed Chester, mentally making note of the fact that what he had feared was true. John, too, was in love with Mary Hamre.

"To study tuberculosis on such a vast scale," went on John, utterly unaware of his friend's train of thought, "well, it's a tremendous opportunity. Will you take it, Ches?"

Hayes shrugged his shoulders. "We'll sleep on it," he said.

The chance had come for one of them to go abroad with a relief commission to study the white plague in eastern European regions devastated by famine. Both men had specialized along that line, although recently Hayes was developing a more or less general practice among the city's well-to-do and even socially prominent families. This experience abroad would mean contact with well-known continental physicians and would endow the man who underwent it with worth-while authority on his return.

That night, John felt himself pulled in two directions. His professional ambition urged him to accept the opportunity. His love for Mary prompted him to cast it aside and devote his efforts to winning her affection. Finally, as the hours wore on, he decided to leave the matter in Chester's hands. After all, as his senior, he was perhaps entitled to a first decision.

Meanwhile, the other man wrestled with no difficulties whatever. John must be the man to go. He, Chester Haynes, sacrifice the practice he had so carefully built up and which was proving remarkably lucrative, in order to spend months in some God-forsaken spot treating foreigners? But, more to be considered than that was the fact that with John out of the way, Mary would surely succumb to his wooing, which should be as ardent and persuasive as he could make it.

The two men met on their hospital rounds next morning. "Well?" said John abruptly.

"Take it," said Chester. "You deserve it. You're the better man for the job and I yield to you!" His words conveyed a sense of self-sacrifice decidedly at variance with the truth.

That evening Chester called on Mary, initiating the first step of a well-planned campaign.

"I suppose you've heard of John Bates' new job?" he asked casually.

Mary's brown eyes widened. "New job?"

Good! John hadn't let her know yet. "Why, yes," said John's good friend. "One of us is able to go across with the relief commission to study tuberculosis. As John seemed—er—so keen I waived any prior claims myself in his favor."

"How very splendid!" cried Mary. "When does he go?" she asked quietly.

"Oh, in a week or so," said Chester carelessly. "He'll be frightfully busy arranging his affairs. I'll take over a considerable part of his practice. By the way, Mary, I'm coming around after hours tomorrow in my new roadster. Won't you try it out? Got to see an old chronic up at her summer home in Westchester."

It was true, as Chester had said, that John's days were busy ones, and he took a vicarious pleasure in the thought that otherwise he would have been tempted to feast his eyes as frequently as possible upon Mary's dear face before he went. And to do so would be difficult without letting her know he cared unbelievably.

Poor deluded John! As if Mary hadn't guessed long since the state of his affections.

Came the day of John's departure. Chester was to see him off at the steamer, and, in a generous mood, decided to run around and get Mary. He could well afford to be magnanimous, considering that a few hours would put miles of ocean between the two of them, and all would be clear sailing for him.

After all, Mary was out, and delayed by tire trouble, Chester reached the pier just as the last "All ashore that's going ashore" was being sounded. But far up on an upper deck he saw John. If he felt a slight wish professionally that he stood in John's shoes, he reminded himself that he had had the chance and refused it. There was adequate compensation awaiting him.

He lifted his hat and waved it.

"Goodby; good luck to you—" The words froze on his lips. Who was that beside John? Mary!

John must have seen the look on his face. Making a trumpet of his hands, he called to him: "Quietly—married an hour ago. Tried to get hold of you, but couldn't. Wanted to avoid fuss. Congratulate us!"

And Mary, her face radiant above the armful of roses she carried, nodded happy affirmation. "It was my idea!" she called, and the explanation was sufficient. Mary would brook no obstacles.

"Haul in the gangplank!"

Slowly, with dignity and majesty, the liner drew away. —

Duty

An Indiana business man who is cranky about his food distressed his wife by setting his cup of coffee in the platter of butter.

"What do you mean by doing a trick like that?" inquired the wife.

"I am only carrying out an injunction of humanity. It's the duty of the strong to support the weak," replied the aggrieved husband.—Indianapolis Star.

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Vegetables Enjoyed by Epicures of Old Times

The beets of ancient Greece were black and white and the leaves as well as the roots were used. The leaves were generally preferred to lettuce, though lettuce was highly thought of for its cooling effect.

There are accounts of lettuce being served in its natural state at the tables of Persian kings as far back as 500 B. C. The Romans generally cooked it. Roman lettuce was black and its milky juice was said to induce sleep. In Sixteenth century England, where eight varieties were found, it was cooked or served with oil and vinegar.

Only in recent years have mushrooms been anything like abundant on the market, and outside the large cities they are considered a rarity still; yet mushrooms have been available for thousands of years. Said Pliny: "The last device of our epicures to sharpen their appetites and tempt them to eat inordinately is the cooking of mushrooms."

Often they prepared the dish with their own hands to enjoy the odor. The mushroom, however, fell into discredit at the death of Emperor Tiberius Claudius, on account of the aid it had rendered Agrippina, his wife, in poisoning him.

Made Handsome Income by "Hurry Up" Weddings

One of the most famous marriage brokers of history was Rev. Alexander Keith, who, at the middle of the Eighteenth century, did a flourishing trade in clandestine marriages in the Mayfair district of London. He used to celebrate as many as 6,000 a year and charged a guinea for each ceremony. He was publicly excommunicated and in return proceeded to excommunicate the bishop of London, Judge Andrews, who tried him, and the rector of St. George's.

James, fourth duke of Hamilton, was married to the beautiful Miss Gunnings at the Mayfair chapel with a ring from a curtain at 12:30 a. m. In 1753 the marriage act put an end to Keith's hasty weddings and he retired to private life.

How Poppy Became Symbol

There is some confusion and misunderstanding in regard to the use of the poppy as a symbol, by the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The poppy was first sold in this country for war relief before the armistice, when Mme. Guerin disposed of millions of them which had been made by French orphans. The Veterans of Foreign Wars bought the last of her stock. In 1920 the American Legion had a national poppy sale, but in 1921 had a daisy sale. The Veterans of Foreign Wars then had a poppy drive. Later the Legion used the poppy. Both organizations now sell poppies near Memorial day for raising funds for needy veterans, and it seems that this flower has found a place in the American heart along with the red cross upon a white field.

Tit for Tat

"Ah," said the elderly tramp, giving his brimless hat a twirl, "education is a wonderful thing in our line of business."

"Why, whatever good is education to us?" asked the younger road walker.

"I'll tell you," was the reply. "I was in Beverly one morning and knocked at the door of a tidy little bungalow. When the lady of the house came out to see who it was I quoted a little Shakespeare."

"Well?"

"An' she replied with a little bacon."

"Makers of the Flag"

On Flag day, 1914, before the employees of the Department of the Interior, Franklin K. Lane, then secretary of the interior, made an address which ended: "I swung before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself, the pictured suggestion of that big thing which makes this nation. My stars and my stripes are your dream and your labors. They are bright with cheer, brilliant with courage, firm with faith, because you have made them so out of your hearts. For you are the makers of the flag and it is well that you glory in the making."

Poor Place for Doctor

Many centuries after the time of the Greeks and the Romans cabbage was still so highly thought of as a health giver that the story was told of a doctor going to settle in Denmark, who, when he saw fields of cabbage everywhere, lost heart, deciding that Denmark would be a poor market for his services. But an English writer of half a century ago recounted with apologies instances of the high regard in which the vegetable had been held. His age, said he, looked on all members of the cabbage family as hard to digest and affording little nourishment.

Moon's Light Believed to Affect Mentality

There seems to be a very generally accepted belief that the moon exerts a very potent influence upon the mentality of some persons. Writing in the British Medical Journal, Dr. E. Gerald Stanley says that the colossal upheaval of the waters of the earth—the tides—suggests terrifying possibilities of the moon's effect on human actions.

Men in Central Africa declare they have suffered from headaches as a result of moonshine, and some make a practice of wearing a pitch helmet when going out at night.

In the Middle East exposure to the rays of the moon is said to cause nightmare as well as headaches, and in the Far East a morning "thick head" is added to these symptoms. In Burma there is a belief that when the insane suffer from mental storms these correspond to the phases of the moon.

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