

NOW AND THEN

PERSEVERANCE

Get a bit tired of working for a dream that is far away? Get a bit tired of waiting for some things we want today? Get a bit weary of striving for aims so illusive and high? Can't seem to cope with failure when longed for success passes by? But supposing to triumph were easy. And wishes were simply attained. Results came at once without working. Would you value the things you have gained? Were victory won without trying. It wouldn't be worth the name. Then purpose would vanish from living. And life would be terribly tame. —Selected

The Commentators are busy broad-casting these days when everyone is eager to hear the last news. Will there be war? It is a vital question with us all, for in the world that has grown so much smaller with the rapid sailing ships and the invention of airplanes it is hardly possible that our country will be immune. The world has grown very evil. The message of the Prince of Peace, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you," has very little influence with the war lords who seem ambitious to rule the world. And yet what joy does it give them! Truly it is so, "Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown." We hear that Mussolini has been shot at many times and Hitler made his speech the other day behind a bullet proof glass, all going to show they have such fear and anxiety that a peaceful citizen does not dream of.

THE ANCIENT MARINER

Wordsworth and Coleridge were famous friends. They, with the poet Southey made up the trio of famous Lake poets. One day as they were taking a walk with Wordsworth's wife Mary they reached the little town of Watchet, and sat down to rest. And then they made plans for taking a journey. Each was to write something to pay for the expenses of the other. So Coleridge wrote "The Ancient Mariner," who was to sail from Watchet the port of departure of the Ancient Mariner: The ship was cheered, the harbor cleared. Merrily did we drop Below the kirk, below the hill, Below the lighthouse top.

Sceptics may say what they will; but here is the church, St. Decuman's, upon its hill, and there the lighthouse. Has not Wordsworth himself told us how it happened?—how Coleridge started out with him and Mary from Alfoxden to go down the coast to Lynton in Devon; how, walking along the Quantock Hills from Alfoxden to Watchet, they decided to pay the expenses of their tour by writing a poem for the New Monthly Magazine, and how "in the course of this walk was planned the poem of the 'Ancient Mariner'?" Here then was conceived on a walk to Watchet what H. D. Trail called "the most sublime of pot-boilers to be found in all literature." Whence else would the Ancient Mariner have set sail? Of course it was Watchet; it must have been Watchet.

CHRIST OF THE ANDES

It is a good thing to think of "The Christ of the Andes" when thinking of this war torn world. Way back in the 19th century Chili and Argentina who had been having strife about their boundaries decided that they would have a lasting peace, and to insure it, they melted the canon and erected this famous statue, "Christ of the Andes" right on the brow of a mountain between them. It was in 1855 that peace was made and it is still inviolately kept and just as strong and unarmored by weather stands the statue, pointing upward.

HE GOT THE JOB

President Coolidge dispensed his kindly helpfulness as he did his dry humor—quietly and unobtrusively. One day during his administration, a young cub reporter, a son of one of his friends, appeared at the White House and was taken in to see the President. In the brief conversation that followed, the young man explained that he was anxious to get a job with one of the Washington news bureaus; whereupon Mr. Coolidge said "Sit down there and see what kind of job I have." After the President had received a number of callers and was again alone with the young man, he pointed to a plaque on the wall and asked, "See that inscription over there?" The cub reporter read it. "Oh, isn't that a fine tribute?" "Don't know; never read it," said Mr. Coolidge. His instinct for journalism told him that he had provided the young man with a front page story, if the youngster knew how to write it. The aspiring reporter did write the story, and got the coveted job.

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THE TWO FIRST LADIES

Perhaps the wardrobe of the two first ladies, when the Queen of England visits our shores, has been the thought of by most fashion designers. England is to furnish the dress for Mrs. Roosevelt while our country is to furnish one for England's Queen. Both of the dresses are to be blue, it is said, and of the finest sheers wool. The meeting will be a harvest for the news reporters.

TWO BRAVE MEN

The Reverend Mr. Narcross of Framlingham left by will, the sum of £500 to "the bravest man in England." The executors of the estate applied to the Duke of Wellington for information as to the rightful recipient. He replied:

"It is generally thought that the battle of Waterloo was one of the greatest ever fought by the English. The success of the battle turned upon the closing of the gates of Hougomont. The gates were closed in the most courageous manner in the world by a man named Sir James Macdonnel. I think he is the man to whom you should pay the £500.

When the money was handed to Sir James, in acceptance of this decision, he sent the executors word that he could not claim all the credit of closing the gates. He added:

"My sergeant, John Graham, seeing with me the importance of the step, rushed forward to help me; and, by your leave, I will share the legacy with him."
The request was granted, and the two brave men received the sum between them.

REVIEW OF SOME OF THE BEST SELLERS

From a standpoint of sales possibilities, the biggest book for April is "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck. It will probably be one of the year's biggest books commercially and certainly one of the biggest in literary value. Later during the month it will be described more fully. It uss bad language; it will be called "red" and it is brutally frank but most persons will wish to read it.

"Blue water", by Warwick Deeping is his newest and love story and from a literary standpoint will not be a rival of "The Grapes of Wrath" but will be a popular book for the borrowers. An English co-operative farming venture brings out the best instinct of warring characters. A poignant love story, too. There are four main characters; Ann, a typical modern woman; Mallicon, an unscrupulous land-owner; John, a young poet; Rachel, head waitress at the inn in the town of Bluewater. Mix, shake thoroughly and the result is a pleasant love story.

"The Runaway", by Kathleen Norris is likely to sell and rent as well. Her books are always in demand. It has the well known Norris touch in the emotional problem around which the book is written—that of a young girl who has to answer the question, "Shall I or shall I not stand by the worthless man I have married?" It was serialized in Colliers.

Another very popular and amusing yarn is "Harlequin House" by Margery Sharp, the author of "The Nutmeg Tree". Like it—it is enjoyable nonsense. It is an amusing story of several characters and their whimsical adventures in London. "Frying Colours", by G. S. Forester, is a new novel in the trilogy to be published as the Book-of-the-Month for May. "Captain Horatio Hornblower". Of course it is the third of a series but independently of the others it is a novel that is brimful of suspense and colorful action which makes it a real novel and not a time-killer. "Fly-Colours" is the story of Captain Hornblower's escape from France, after his capture by Napoleon's forces. It is a story of daring and resource, and also the story of Hornblower's questioning mind. Hornblower is very real, very likeable. It should be popular with both men and women readers.

The Literary Guild choice for May is "Here Lies the Collected Stories of Dorothy Parker". It is being backed with a great amount of advertising which will make others in addition to the regular Parker followers, buy it. "Valedictory", by MacKinlay Kantor is a short story, even shorter than "The Voice of Bugle Ann", describing an evening in the life of Ty, retiring janitor who has been a sort of unofficial dean and foster parent to the boys and girls. The story is simple and restrained with just the right touch of pathos.

The "Agony" Column
"Agony" column is a term often applied to the column in newspapers devoted to personal advertisements, such as announcements of losses or bequests. As early as 1800 the agony column was also a medium for matrimonial advertisements. It is sometimes known as the personal column.

Meat Loaf With Round Steak, Pork

Here is a nice meat loaf recipe. A woman can bake this in a little while and have something grand on hand for sandwiches or something hot for dinner.

- MEAT LOAF**
1 pound ground round steak
¼ pound fat salt pork, ground
2 cups bread crumbs
½ teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
2 eggs, well beaten
1 onion, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
Mix the ground meat with crumbs, seasoning, chopped vegetables and eggs. Blend thoroughly. Add enough water or milk if preferred to make a firm loaf. Pack into a greased loaf pan onto a roasting pan which contains a little melted fat. A cupful of canned tomatoes may be poured over the meat loaf if desired. Bake for one hour in a moderate oven 350 F. Slice and serve hot with tomato sauce, or cool and slice for sandwiches.

A Spinach Dish To Tempt All

If the weekly dose of spinach arrives on the table looking much the same week in and week out, we can't blame those around the table for giving sour looks, and the poor spinach (Who has done his best) sees it's last bit of day light amid frowning countenances. Poor spinach! And to think that a little effort on the part of the housewife would have made his end so much happier. Here is a fine finish for spinach:

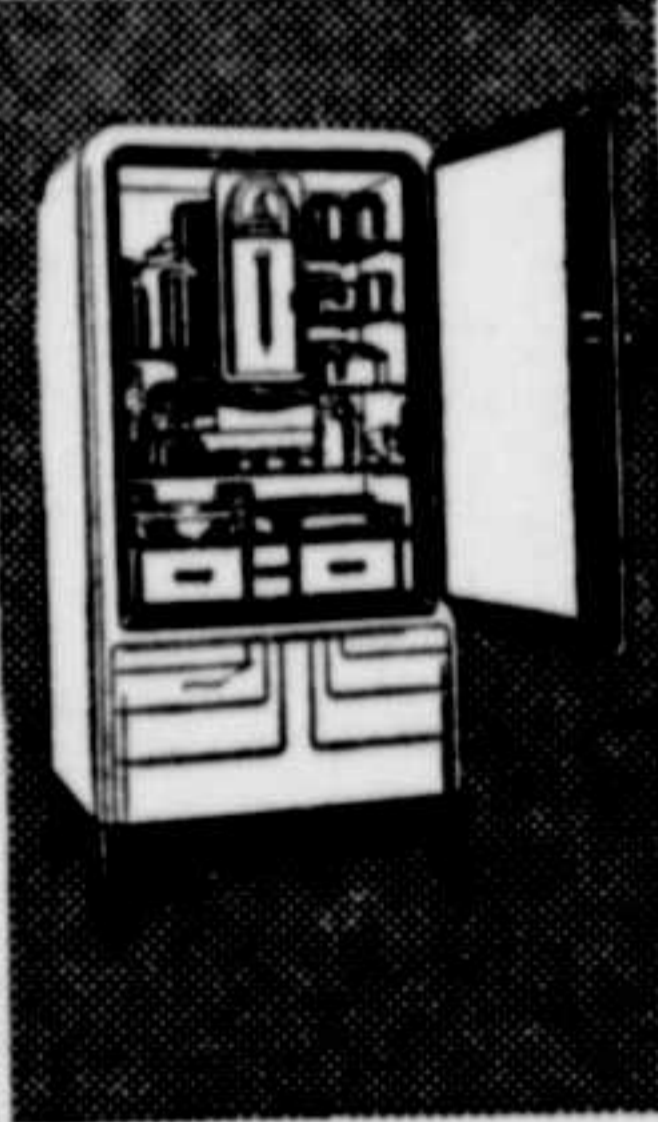
- SPINACH ROLLS**
2 cups cooked spinach
2 tablespoons chopped onion
Salt and pepper
1 cup dry bread crumbs
½ teaspoon baking powder
2 tablespoons grated cheese
2 eggs, well beaten
¼ cup spinach water
Chop spinach and combine with onion, seasoning, crumbs, baking powder and cheese. Add one half the beaten egg. Mix well, shape into finger-length rolls. Add ¼ cup spinach water to the rest of the beaten egg. Dip spinach rolls in bread crumbs, in crumbs again. Fry in deep hot fat until brown. Drain on brown paper and serve hot.

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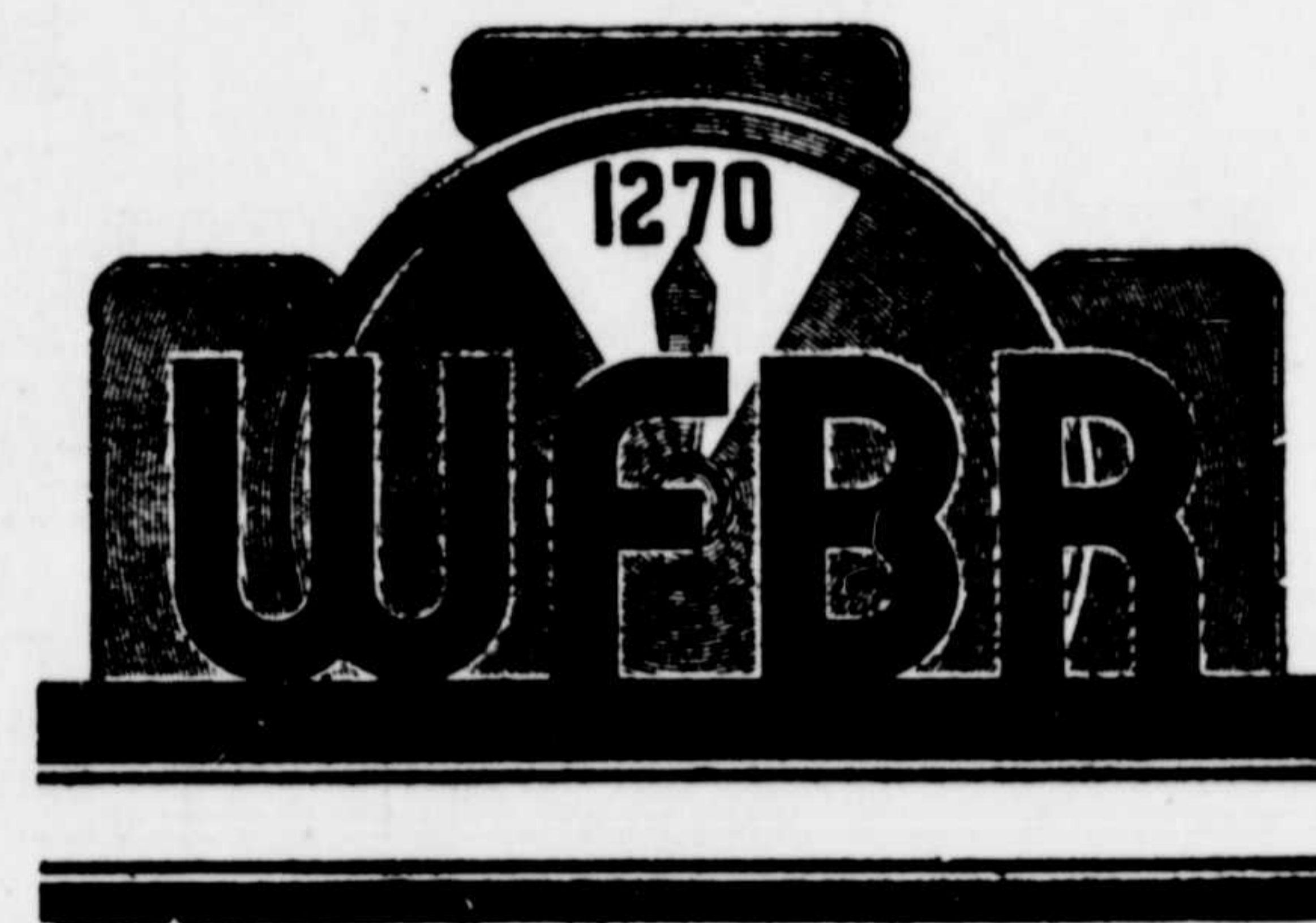
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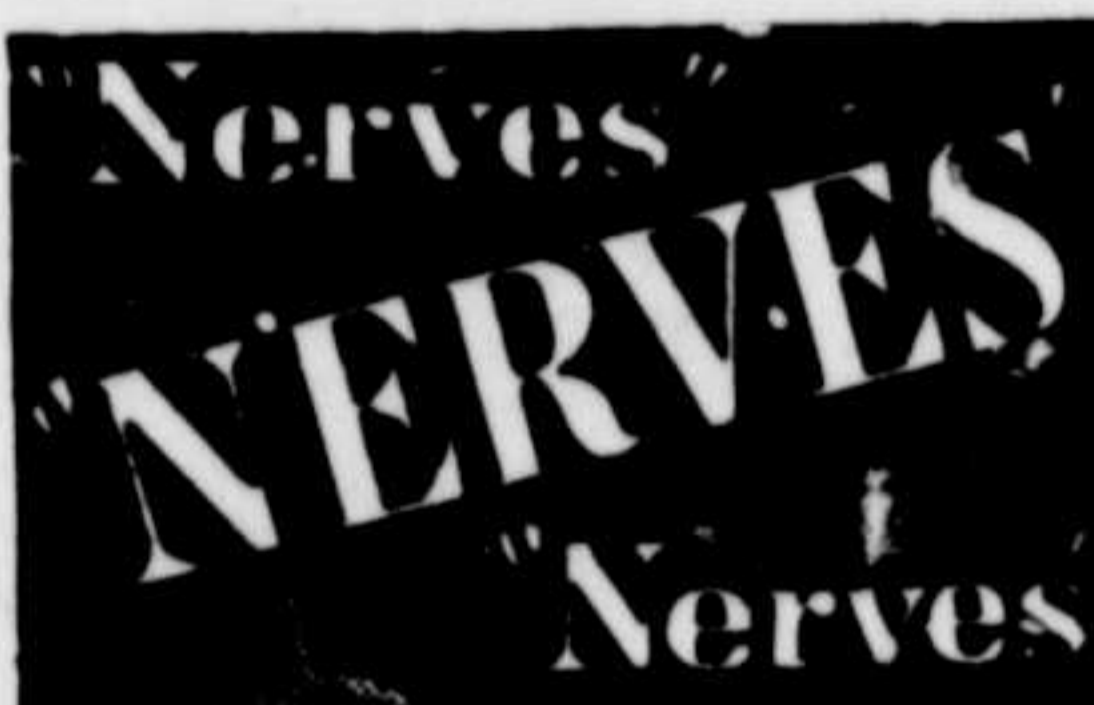
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