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Entered at the postoffice at La Grande, Oregon, as second class matter

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily, single copy 5c
Daily, per week 15c
Daily, per month 50c

BAKER LEADS LA GRANDE IN ONE RESPECT.

Mayor Palmer of Baker yesterday took a step that places that city one peg ahead of La Grande in one respect—that the nauseating dances commonly called the Texas Tommy and other indecent performances on the dance floor, must be stopped in the city of Baker. On the other hand they are permitted to run rampant in La Grande, but under the head of private dances. In this city it is not so much a matter for the officials to stop it as for the society matron and chaperone at dances given by children of school age. Mothers probably don't know all that transpires at the dances given by young people in La Grande, any more than a policeman can hover over every public dance. However, the mothers of young boys and girls who attend the so-called "best private dances," should drop in some evening when their pet children are dancing and see the continuous round of disgusting "ragging" that goes on. These things prevail at the dances that have been given at Honan hall for some time and should be stopped in the sake of the moral. Otherwise well-balanced girls and boys. When the police will stop public dances that cater to the low things wouldn't it be a first rate proposition for mothers and fathers to lay their near delectable daughters over their knees and piddle them good thus removing some of the over-anxiety to rag? It has come to the point where mother must act for the police have little right or inclination to interfere in a private dancing party that is cutting capers like police of well regulated towns frown upon.

Conservative dancing, under com-

mon sense rules of the game, as it were, is exhilarating and entertaining to young and old and the young should not be denied the know-how of executing a waltz correctly and with grace, but when the old reliables are discarded for dances that originated on the Barbary coast, and have every whit as much demoralizing effect as the famous dance from Cairo, it is time the old folks put the clamps of opposition on the young gents who are just blossoming out in long trousers and think they are somebody. Boys and girls are about equally to blame, for if the silly girls didn't consent, the even more silly boys wouldn't dance them, that is a self-evident fact. Until this ragging proposition is effectively put down and out, especially among the ranks of school boys and girls of plastic moral ages, parents should and probably will—now that their attention has been called to it—fight it tooth and nail, and then see that it is kept down.

THE BLESSING OF HAVING A GRANDMOTHER.

The October Woman's Home Companion contains an impressive article on "Grandmothers" in which the author gives the following description of her own grandmother:

"A bride at fifteen; a widow with four children at thirty; flung from wealth to poverty by the Civil War; confronted with the necessity to earn her own and her children's living in a day when women had indeed cried out for better opportunities, and through it all strong, patient, serene, the 'unconquerable soul.' 'What could be braver, what could be richer, than her life?' 'What could there be in all human experience to surpass that young love of hers?—the love that one hears, with aching throat and blurred eyes, in the single voice of some throbbing violin when the lights are low and every coarser instrument is hushed? Ah, that is the pure romance, starry, exquisite—fleeting if you will, but oh, how sweet!'

'And then—motherhood. The woman of today, with a large and lovely charity, would mother the whole world. But she—she mothered her own. And

will any woman say that to mother one's own is the lesser joy, the inferior vocation?

"Then death—the death of her husband. And I think there can be no sharper test of courage, no deeper call for heroism, than the requirement to smile into one's children's faces, to make life a happy thing for them, when their father lies dead. That is a task to shake the heart of the staunchest; yet she did it.

"Soon after the war and financial disaster, the old, old story of the Southern wife and widow; the home desecrated for her by the presence of boarders; the skillful needle put to such unwonted service; all the pitiful shifts of unequipped, sensitively bred poverty. These things she did too—and smiled.

"And then she lost her first-born her only son. And she smiled still, for the children who were left.

"As her remaining children grew up around her, the stress lightened. There was marriage, there was birth, happening around her again—renewals of life.

"What would childhood be, indeed, without grandmothers? Of course we love our mothers and fathers best; we always assert that stoutly, but—well, there's something about a grandmother!

BLACKBIRDS AND PELLAGRA

The ordinary blackbird, well known in this state, has been brought under suspicion as the possible carrier of the germ which produces in the human system the much discussed malady Lombardy leprosy, better known as pellagra. At least this is the nature of a report which has been promulgated by scientific investigators in Kentucky and elsewhere, as a result of painstaking observation and research. It was noticed by them that in various localities where pellagra was prevalent among human beings that the horses and cattle suffered from a somewhat similar disease. The horses especially were affected with deadly symptoms practically identical with those caused in South America by a wasting disease that causes havoc among herds thus affected. The same place, it was further observed, was visited yearly by a flock of migratory

birds, of which blackbirds were by far the most numerous, and in the blood of these were found the protozoal parasites called trypanosomes.

The suggestion, therefore, is, according to The Lancet, of London, which records and discusses these researches, that the germ of pellagra is a trypanosome and that it is conveyed from place to place by blackbirds and perhaps by other migratory birds. The method of transmission from the birds to the cattle and men is uncertain, but suspicion naturally falls upon insects, and especially upon flies, since it has been observed that outbreaks of pellagra are generally coincident with plague of flies, and that when effective measures are taken for the extermination of the flies the ravages of the disease are abated.

It must be added that this theory is yet incomplete and unproved. It is, however, highly interesting, and is sufficiently plausible and in accord with known facts in bacteriology to warrant serious and careful investigation, which it will, of course, receive. No trypanosome has yet been found in the blood of a pellagra patient, nor any identified germ of the disease. But it is expected that a germ will eventually be found. The disease is still as obscure as it is terrible, less known of it than of most others which have for so long been familiar to the world through their ravages.

Perhaps the most specific and plausible theory of its origin heretofore has been that which connected it with the eating of unsound Indian corn and which arose from the historic circumstance that the disease first appeared in Europe soon after the introduction of that grain from America. It will be interesting to see if that theory will give way to that which implicates the blackbirds, or whether, in view of the close association of blackbirds with cornfields, the two will be found to be mutually confirmatory.

ELECTRICITY AT THE BALL GAME

The new baseball park of the Boston American is equipped with the very latest electrical apparatus for scoring the game and for distributing the story of the contest to the city and to all parts of the country. Be-

hind the left fielder's territory and opposite the pavilion and grand stand a large score-board is operated electrically from a signaling desk in the press box, located in the center of the main stand and at the highest point in the structure. Every ball, strike-out and batter number are registered on the score board by the simple act of pressing a push button in the desk set, which contains twenty-three keys, 23 signaling buttons, an operator's telephone set and a generator circuit. The indicators on the field score board are actuated by electro magnets; fourteen dry cells normally being used in the transmitting circuits. A telephone is also provided at the score board itself for use in setting up the score of innings.

The press box also contains a plug switchboard and circuits for sixteen telegraph instruments, including wires

for the Associated Press, local press and foreign service. The features of the game are recounted by telegraph even for downtown papers, the contention being that greater speed and accuracy are obtained than with telephone. Direct wires are in service between Boston and the home city of the visiting team at all games. Rubber-covered wires run in twisted pairs are used in the press box service. Although the telephone is not used to any extent in newspaper reporting of the game, it is an important factor in the handling of extra baseball cars by the local street railways, and the premises are liberally supplied with pay stations.

An Illinois man divorced his wife to marry his mother-in-law. Such a need for punishment ought to make telegraph instruments, including wires a white hope.

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