

Fire the Great Destroyer

Fire not only destroys about \$300,000,000 worth of property annually in the United States, but 15,000 people are burned to death and 50,000 are injured by fire each year. Most of the victims are women and children.

It is an established fact that most fires are preventable and due to the careless habits of the American people. Europe, by being careful, has an annual per capita fire loss of less than 30 cents. Ours was \$2.63 last year.

More than half our fires are in homes. The majority of these occur because of defective furnaces and flues, faulty electric wiring, careless smokers, open lights, thoughtless use of electric appliances, rubbish, careless use of matches, gasoline and kerosene, and other easily avoidable causes.

Therefore the following suggestions are made:

Make sure your heating plant and appurtenances are in safe condition before starting fire for winter. Paper flue-stops court disaster. Place ashes in metal cans, never in wooden receptacles.

Examine electric wiring for worn insulation and defects in installation.

Protect open lights with globes.

Clean up rubbish, especially in basements, attics and back yards, and keep clean.

Use gasoline, if you must use it, only with greatest care and never near a fire. The vapor from one gallon of gasoline has an explosive force equal to 83 pounds of dynamite.

Never fill kerosene lamps while lighted. Never use kerosene to start fires.

Keep matches in metal boxes and away from children. Never discard a match until the last spark is out. Place used matches in metal receptacles. Never throw them on the floor or in waste baskets.

Oil mops and oily rags ignite from spontaneous combustion. Keep them in closed metal receptacles.

Never leave an electric iron, or other electric heating device, even for a minute, without disconnecting at the socket.

Careless smokers cause thousands of fires, costing many lives. Cigarette butts and cigar stubs should be extinguished before being discarded and care should be used in depositing pipe ashes.

Observance of these and other simple precautions will do much to reduce our fire waste. It is the duty of every person to assume a sense of personal responsibility to prevent fires and to be careful at all times and in all places under conditions likely to cause fires.

HINTS FOR THE POULTRY GROWER

Those who have green crops such as wheat, oats, rye and barley for their fowls are fortunate. There will be times during the winter when these crops will do the fowls much good.

But where for any reason no green crops are available oats may be sprouted to provide green feed for the fowls.

A good way to do this is to get a few boxes that may be easily handled. Fill the boxes with garden soil and put in the barn, cellar or outhouse where there is ventilation. Moisten the soil and sow oats in these boxes. The seed may be planted very thick, as it will be best to set the box out and let the chickens have access to them as soon as the plants are an inch or more above the ground. Another sowing may then be made in the box.

In this way the fowls may have enough green food to give them a good appetite and keep them in fine health and vigor. It is a very difficult matter to keep hens in good laying condition during the winter without green food. The best way is to sow green crops. If this has not been done, then oats may be sprouted as has been suggested.

WORDS OF WISE MEN

It's the easy job that is hard to get.

Today's decisions may determine your destiny.

It is easy to find remedies for other people's troubles.

A broken friendship may be soldered but will never be sound.

Platonic friendship is like carrying matches in an explosive works.

Our ideals are not worth much if we surrender them at the first attack.

The ignorance that is bliss generally leads to the knowledge that is expensive.

Ingredients Required for Home-Made Apple Butter

Apple butter is generally made with cider, but this can be left out if desired. Four quarts of sterilized sweet cider should be boiled down to two quarts. To this add four quarts of apples peeled and cut into small pieces. If the texture of the apples is coarse they should be boiled and put through a strainer before being added to the cider. Boil this mixture until the cider does not separate from the pulp. When two-thirds done add one pound of sugar. One-half teaspoonful of cinnamon, allspice and cloves may be added. Four into sterilized jars and steam for five minutes.

First Elephant Shown.

The first elephant ever exhibited in America was shown at Philadelphia in 1796. Grown people were charged a dollar a look and children a quarter.

A Side-Show Romance

By JANE OSBORN

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Outside of her improvised tent Mala could hear the voices of the eager young "barker," shrill against the background of jazz music that came from the veranda beyond, and the buzzing of voices of the crowds that she could indistinctly see outlined through the canvas that hid her from the rest of the men and women, girls and boys who had assembled on the Woodmere lawn for the fete that was to raise enough money to tide over one of the local charities through the summer.

"This way to have your fortune told," went on the persistent young "barker;" "greatest gypsy in the world. Come and have your fortune told. Learn your past and know your future. This way, ladies and gentlemen."

Then another higher pitched boyish voice—the voice of the barker for a rival attraction.

"This way to see the wild animals! Largest menagerie in the world! Largest alligator in captivity. Fiercest bear in the world! Eats 'em alive! Hugs 'em to death! This way, this way. Best show on the grounds."

And then the incessant "This way to have your fortune told. Greatest gypsy in the world. Cross her palm with silver and she'll tell you your fortune."

And still Mala sat within her close little tent, none too comfortable beneath the heavy load of chains and tawdry jewelry that embellished her costume. Moreover her hair was hanging loosely on her shoulders and the mask across her face was oppressive. But worst of all, she was sitting there in her tent wasting her time and the vocal energy of her willing young aid with the megaphone outside without having the satisfaction of taking in any money.

She wondered what she would tell the people when they did come; it didn't seem exactly easy. Still, it was all in the day's work, and if Mrs. Stanley Burton chose to keep her on at a graduate nurse's salary to idle her time away in this fashion, why it really wasn't going to disturb Mala.

For Mala had not been back from her long months of Red Cross duty in France many weeks, and even a respite such as this from the more trying sort of nursing was bringing welcome relief to overwrought nerves. She had gone to Woodmere to take charge of Bobby Barton's strained knee, but the ten-year-old Bobby had recovered rapidly.

Meanwhile Alicia Barton had flatly refused to sit in the stuffy tent telling fortunes, though she had been promised by her mother to the committee and duly advertised as one of the "side shows." As a last-minute substitute Mala, about to return to town, had been urged to stay a little longer for the purpose of taking Alicia's place. And Alicia had gone sailing and Mala had been put into the gypsy costume specially made for Alicia, and Mrs. Barton was sure if Mala kept her mask on no one would know the difference.

Meantime Bobby Barton, entirely recovered as to his strained knee and more than enthusiastic over the one who had brought comfort and diversion to his irksome days of convalescence, was continuing to "bark" outside her tent.

As minutes passed and no shadow darkened the entrance of her tent Mala was aware of a slight disappointment. Then she heard her barker:

"Greatest attraction on the grounds, Hey, why doesn't some one come and get their fortune told? Apparently Bobby, too, was becoming discouraged."

Then through her mask Mala was aware that some one was rapidly making for the tent entrance. She felt an unexpected sense of confusion—stage fright, it seemed—and she shuffled her fortune cards nervously. She had gone into the operating room duty often with far less nervousness than this.

There was a fumbling at the tent flap, a sidewise shuffling of the feet and then a dark face was thrust inquiringly in. It wasn't an unkind face nor an especially ferocious one, and its expression was one more of inquisitiveness than anything else, but still one doesn't encounter even gentle brown bears every day and it was with difficulty that Mala changed a shrill scream of terror into a terrified, "Oh, please somebody do something. The bear!"

But somebody and a good many somebodies had done something. Bobby had seen the vanishing black legs of Bruno, dropped his megaphone and had seized the trailing rope.

"Hey, you menagerie people, your bear's loose," he called to the group of tents across the path, and before Mala had time to think just what was the wisest course of action when meeting a bear single-handed, "the menagerie" people had come, four or five of them, and had dragged off their entire harmless and spiritless bear, who had prowled off in an unguarded moment.

But every one in that part of the Woodmere lawn had heard the commotion, and like wildfire spread the information that a ferocious bear had broken into Alicia Barton's tent, that there had been a narrow escape,

that one of the young men from the menagerie tent had performed the rescue and that on the whole the affair had been very thrilling.

That seemed to turn the tide toward the gypsy's tent. For now they came eagerly, they stood in line outside, and the eager Bobby was more occupied now in timing the applicants to see that no one stayed more than five minutes than in shouting through his megaphone. And Mala, between those five-minute interviews, noticed that the tambourine in which she put the silver with which her palm was crossed was getting to look very tempting, and some of the "silver" was really paper.

She rather regretted that Alicia Barton would have all the credit, for as yet her mask had not been removed and she had heard more than one remark from outside that Alicia certainly looked charming in gypsy costume.

The afternoon was almost over and Mala was beginning to feel the strain of her unaccustomed work when some one came who caused her heart to beat faster than had the inquisitive bear.

"Perhaps you had better knock off, Miss Barton," he began. "You must have had quite a fright from that bear." It was Dr. Rodney Hill—Rodney Hill, by whose side Mala had worked during those most trying days and nights in France; Rodney Hill, who, when they parted four months ago, had held Mala's hand in his own and had told Mala that she was the pluckiest girl in the world and had told her that he didn't know how he was going to get along without her. Mala had not heard from Doctor Hill again, and there were times when she had had to confess to herself that in her disappointment there was greater cause for the exhaustion she had felt during these months back in America than was the memory of all the work in France.

Mala didn't intend to take off that mask even then, but once she spoke Rodney Hill knew her and he knew it was not Alicia Barton, to whom he had been sent to give any professional aid that she might need after the bear episode, which had been getting more and more interesting as the afternoon passed.

He was holding her hand again and telling her that she was the pluckiest girl, and Bobbie had been told to give them "double time," which meant ten minutes.

"But I didn't know you were one of these people—money and society and all that sort of thing," he told her. "And I never dreamed that you were," she said. "You never seemed like these Woodmere people or that you knew girls like Alicia Barton."

"But I'm not, and I don't," protested Rodney. "You see when I got back from France I'd rather lost my grip. I had just finished medical college when I went over, and exhausted as I was I wasn't in shape to put up the fight that would be necessary to start in on my own. Then I got in touch with these millionaire Dorkins who wanted a resident doctor for the summer to look after old Dorkins' gout and Grandma Dorkins' bad temper. Well, to tell the truth, it was because of the fat salary that went with it that I accepted it for the summer."

"I wanted to make sure I had enough to keep the pot boiling for a year and then I was going to look you up and ask you whether you'd help me to start. I wanted to tell you back there in France, that night when we left, but I knew we had both been through too much to think of ourselves then. Besides, I wanted to have a home to offer you before I asked you. Mala dear—"

"Ten minutes is up," called out the cheerful barker outside, and then, "This way to see the greatest gypsy in the world. Learn your past and know your future."

Instinct in Spiders.

Spinning webs is second nature with spiders. After they are hatched from the eggs in a cocoon they cling together for about a week. Then they separate, but their legs do not carry them very far. Facing the wind and standing on the tips of their legs, the baby spiders raise their abdomens and emit a silken thread. The faintest current wafts the gossamer in the air, and when enough is let out to permit of aerial flight the insect drifts away. When it wishes to land it hauls in the thread. Wherever it lands it can spin webs without the slightest instructions from older spiders. Older male spiders seem to lose this gift. There are about 550 species of spiders in America, but only two, the house and garden spiders, are well known.

Plume Birds Failing.

New Guinea is the home of a large percentage of the world's birds of paradise. The supply of these beautiful birds is fast falling. Not only do the women of Europe and America demand feathers for their bonnets, says the Savannah News, but the natives of New Guinea and surrounding islands make lavish use of the plumage as headdresses. Some precautions are now taken to prevent visitors to New Guinea from killing the "most beautiful birds in the world," but the natives are left alone and they continue to deck themselves out in capes and headpieces more gorgeous than any seen on our stage beauties or the wives of our millionaires.

Literal Minded.

Mrs. X. (returning home)—"Mercy! However did the child get that awful bump?" Green Girl—"You told me to let him play on the piano, and he fell off."

Criticism and Citizenship

It is the plain, public duty of every citizen to criticize proposed government measures believed to be harmful.

Swift & Company is in a better position perhaps, than others, to understand the meat packing business in all its relations to public and private interests, even though the others may have been giving the subject a great deal of sincere attention.

Swift & Company is convinced that interference with its legitimate business function by governmental agencies, however well intentioned, would be an injury to every man, woman and child who wants meat to eat, as well as to the men who raise the meat and to those who dress and distribute it.

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These advertisements are intended to help you, and to help Congress decide what is best to be done. Mistakes are costly and apt to be harmful in these trying times.

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Consider the Centipede.

It is a mistake to suppose that all centipedes have a hundred legs. The name is misleading. The most common variety usually have 34, but there are other species with as many as 100 or 200 legs.

A Lady of Distinction.

Is recognized by the delicate fascinating influence of the perfume she uses. A bath with Cuticura Soap and hot water to thoroughly cleanse the pores, followed by a dusting with Cuticura Talcum Powder usually means a clear, sweet, healthy skin.—Adv.

Bends, but Cut Glass.

An American steel company, making all grades of electric tool steels, announces that it has produced an alloy chisel steel which can be made so hard that it will cut glass, yet may be bent by being hammered over the edge of an anvil.

Have Some.

Okolehao, which is Hawaiian moonshine, is similar to a combination of vinegar and alcohol.

Trappers Notice—Wanted furs, all kinds. Ship now while the price is up. Your money same day furs received and top prices. Send for quotation cards. These furs keep them coming to us. O. M. Bunting & Co., 679-681 St. Brooklyn, N.Y.

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Send or Brother in camp or training for defendant if so, mail him a package of Allen's Foot Ease, the antiseptic Powder for Tired, Aching, Swollen Feet, and prevents blisters and sore spots. Makes walking easy. Sold everywhere, 25c.

Steam Not Needed.

In Death valley, California, the summer temperature in artificial shade soars to 135 degrees, with 1 per cent of humidity.

What "Genotaph" Means.

The word is derived from the Greek words "kenos," meaning "empty" and "taphos," meaning "tomb." In other words, a genotaph is a sepulchral monument erected in honor of a person whose body lies elsewhere.

Medicine From Stag Horns.

Stags are bred in China for their horns, the horns being cut while soft each year and used in the manufacture of medicine.

Good Reasons for Optimism.

The little world of ours is not growing worse to the men and women who are doing their best to make it better.

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