

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

The further one probes into the Chloë sore the less Boxer and the more dour one finds.

Speaking of the distinction between wit and humor, a woman will humor her husband in order to outwit him.

The experiment of introducing sweet potatoes in Europe is working well. It will work better when Europeans get used to it.

The census shows that Philadelphia's reputation for slowness has suffered no inroad from her rate of increase in population.

The question of success comes up with the death of every rich man. President Patton of Princeton has said that no man who is raising a family properly can be accounted a failure.

A popular actress who appeared in a New York court of law the other day said she was 35 years old. We have not learned whether she did it for advertising purposes or because she is in reality somewhere near 50.

London calls its new electric underground railway "the twopenny tube." But a few weeks old, this railway is already carrying ninety thousand passengers daily, and expects soon to raise the number to two hundred and fifty thousand. The average villager, walking home to his dinner, finds these numbers as hard to realize as astronomical figures are to those who think in tens or hundreds.

A freight brakeman on an Eastern railroad, after working continuously for 100 hours without sleep, after flagging a train following the one on which he was employed, instantly fell asleep on the track and was run over and killed. The railroad officials, who exacted 100 hours of labor without rest from this employee, were atrociously at fault and are morally responsible for the loss of a human life. Such inhuman demands upon the strength of faithful railroad employees shock the public. Adequate legal punishment should be visited upon railroad authorities who order or permit their men to remain on constant duty four days.

Richard Le Gallienne may be audacious and extravagant at times, but he is thoroughly sane when he says: "There never was a more pernicious, shallow-minded proverb than 'Business before pleasure.' The natural law is the opposite. Business for the sake of pleasure would be the truer precept." If one takes time to think of it the irrationality of life seems unpardonable. The first question in the old catechism, "What is the chief end of man?" is now answered in terms of work, and in innumerable cases pleasure means nothing but the fever to plunge into more work. If heaven be a place of rest few are preparing to enjoy it, for a little vacation of a fortnight, unless one works hard in trying to enjoy it, often means only so much tediousness. This fever for work, like any other fever, is contagious, and as yet no panacea for it is in sight. If with the increased commercial advantages which we are striving for in the far East we could also barter some of our nervous restlessness for their undisturbed calm, the exchange might be our most profitable gain.

A writer in a London magazine maintains that women admire in men, not wit or wisdom, or learning, but flesh and blood. "Cleverness and dullness," says this writer, "are qualities in which we all may be deceived, but a healthy animal admits of no doubt." This is what is called "a bold generalization," like that which announces summer on the appearance of one swallow. A woman admires a man because she sees embodied in him her notion—conscious or unconsciously held—of manhood and manliness. (Admire is the word, remember—not love). If a woman's notion of manhood and manliness is realized in the person of a "healthy animal," she admires him. This accounts for the extravagant admiration paid by his wife to a celebrated pugilist. But, if the idea requires to be complete, if strength of will, energy of intelligence, dexterity of wit and readiness of speech—in short, all those qualities which, with good health, tend to socialize and humanize, she will pay regard to the man who possesses them. Society would be better ordered, perhaps, if admiration and love went hand in hand. But, in fact, they are rarely found together. Why this is so is one of the hidden secrets which nature chooses not to reveal. Maybe it is because two admirable persons yoked together find it difficult to determine which is number one. And everybody knows that, until that question is settled, there can be no peace in matrimony.

American city statistics show a noteworthy increase of cardiac derangement attributed largely to two novelties of our urban organization. One is the now all but universal elevator. The "elevator heart" has come to be recognized among practitioners as distinctly as the "telephone ear." Deafness is predicted as the consequence of using the receiver of the telephone to excess, and excess is necessarily the misfortune of persons whose vocations imply constant resort to that instrument. "Central" should be judged with more generosity accordingly. American impatience, the national eagerness for results, has not only made the elevator all but universal in buildings of three

or more stories, it has driven the manufacturers into quickening the speed of the car to a degree science finds hurtful to the people with weak nervous systems, whose deterioration engenders heart feebleness. The "elevator heart" was recognized at an early period in Europe, where the slower pace of all life still makes a larger proportion of the citizens prefer walking to shooting upward. The favorite type of machine for moderate service in European cities does not require a conductor. The passenger is enabled with simple automatic devices to ascend or descend at will and the speed of all European elevators is moderate. The elevated railroads of American cities contribute substantially to the increase in heart ailments. People will not realize that trains are frequent enough to accommodate all comers in good time. Under the false belief that elevated coaches are as infrequent as those on trunk surface lines, city folks rush half a square to the station of the elevated and then rush up the stairs as if escaping an approaching wild elephant. In most of these headlong instances nothing is gained at the time. The hastener may unconsciously be inflicting on himself or herself muscular or nervous injury whose effects will be recognized when beyond remedy. Take your time!

Since some of the merchants doing business in villages and small towns in districts where it is proposed to extend the system of rural mail delivery have expressed a fear that the operation of the system would be injurious to their trade, it may be worth while to point out to them that the experience of other communities where rural delivery has been in operation does not afford any reason for their fears. In the debates on the subject in Congress that feature of the issue was fully discussed and ample evidence was cited to show that the system is a benefit not only to the people of the rural districts but to the country villages as well. Representative Cramer, of Indiana, said: "Before I had the honor of representing the Eighth Indiana District in Congress I went over three or four rural free delivery routes in one of the counties now forming part of my Congressional district, in company with the special agent of the Postoffice Department detailed for the investigation. We found at one point an organized opposition to the service on the part of some of the country storekeepers, who feared all sorts of injury to their business if the country people had their mails delivered by rural free delivery instead of being compelled to come to the village to receive them. We persuaded these people to give the service a trial. Inside of six months they were not only satisfied with the service but asked for more." Commenting upon the benefits resulting from the system, the Hon. Perry S. Heath, formerly First Assistant Postmaster General, recently stated in a magazine article: "Rural free delivery will eventually impel the construction of macadamized agricultural roads all over the United States. We are working in harmony with good roads conventions everywhere to secure proper roads for the rural carriers to travel over. Great results have been already achieved in this respect, and more may be expected. On one route alone the farmers expended \$3,000 for the improvement of roads as a prerequisite to the establishment of rural free delivery. . . . The direct advantages conferred on the immediate recipients of rural free delivery are as obvious as the general benefits received by the country at large. Farm lands enhance in value by being made more accessible. Crops bring better prices because the growers can get the daily market reports and learn just what their produce is worth. The wife can do her shopping at the country store through the medium of the carrier without leaving her home." Hardly any enterprise on the part of the government in the way of improving its service to the people has been more beneficial than this. Rural free delivery injures nobody's trade, but benefits all, and there is no reason to justify opposition to it from any source.

A Bridge of Sand.
Something new and interesting about ants was learned by a florist recently. For a week or so he had been bothered by ants that got into boxes of seeds which rested on a shelf. To get rid of the ants he put into execution an old plan, which was to place a meaty bone close by, which the ants soon covered, every one despoiling the boxes of seeds. As soon as the bone would become thickly inhabited by the little creepers the florist tossed it into a tub of water. The ants having been washed off, the bone was put in use as a trap again. Yesterday the florist thought himself that he would save trouble by placing the bone in the center of a sheet of fly paper, believing that the ants would never get to the bone, but would get caught on the sticky fly paper while trying to reach the food. But the florist was surprised to find that the ants, discovering the nature of the paper trap, formed a working force and built a path clear to the bone. The material for the walk was sand secured from a little pile near by. For hours the ants worked, and when the path was completed they made their way over its dry surface in couples, as in a march, to the bone.—Boston Herald.

A Curious Newspaper.
The most curious newspaper is the Stereo-Review, published at Paris. This newspaper gives the news of the week not in type, but in instantaneous photographs on a film like that of a cinematograph. A bobbin of this film is the journal and the subscriber puts it through a portable stereoscope, like a field glass, and looks at the pictures thereby reading the news.

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