

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

The Galveston News speaks of diversified farming in the light of "self-defense crops."

It cost to take the census \$15,000,000. That is a large sum, but it is only 20 cents apiece for each citizen.

The Shah of Persia announces that he is going to write a book. He can afford to. He doesn't have to run for his office.

A curious coincidence in this peccant bank clerk business is that the bank mostly finds the clerk out by the time that it finds itself out considerably.

Look after the transmitter of your telephone, see that it is kept clean, and you may possibly escape infection and an unforeseen doctor's bill. Besides, not to do it is wrong.

A woman in New York the other day thrashed two street car rowdies who were making things too interesting for the conductor. Thus does woman's sphere widen as she becomes the champion of weak man and the redressor of his wrongs.

If it is left to China to select the officials who are to be punished, few of them will suffer. It is an old trick in China to select a substitute and bribe him to die for the sake of the family. Human life is cheap there, and this sort of "quick life insurance" is common.

The man who experimented on his face with a chemical preparation wanted to remove the beard without a razor has acquired some information as to the action of certain acids on the human cuticle which will be of advantage to other adventurers as well as himself. This would be a dull world if nobody had any curiosity and everybody had sense.

The possible philanthropist, undecided whether to give to his native town a library or a reformatory, a gymnasium or a hospital, may find his answer in a recent conversation. A clergyman visiting in Cleveland accosted a well-known settlement worker to tell of a fine reform school in his place. The citizens were very proud of it. "And how about the schools for good boys in your town?" came the answer. "Are they anything to be proud of?" The visitor stared, but he did not know.

Spanish public men assert that the loss of its colonial possessions has contributed to the prosperity and strength of Spain. Since peace was declared and friendly relations have been re-established with the United States the material progress of Spain has been remarkable. Not only have the larger cities experienced a change for the better, but places of less importance throughout the kingdom have shown wonderful increase in manufacturing industries. Commerce in general has been making rapid progress, and that between Spain and the United States during the past year has been greater than at any time since 1884. From which it appears that national enmities may be transmuted into national blessings. If that spirit in men or nations which rises superior to despair be not absent.

The question has been raised as to whether girls of 20 ought to be allowed to choose their own reading, and whether there are not pitfalls in libraries for those who are permitted to browse about at will. Like other problems of this kind, one is compelled to admit that it all depends upon the girl, and if the girl is like most girls of 20 it will not much matter what one says; she will have her way. The difficulty about putting only the best books in a girl's way is like that of insisting upon a certain kind of porridge; it may result in a distaste for books of any kind. There are times in a girl's life when she prefers pickles to the most wholesome article of diet, and when she enjoys the clandestine consumption of chocolate creams more than the most nourishing of family feasts. There is the pickle and chocolate stage in novel reading, and a time when the flaming bit of fiction under the pillow is worth a dozen of the standard novels on the library shelves. But a girl who escapes for a time from a prosaic world into an imaginary kingdom of perpetual love-makings, peopled by feverish scraps of femininity, comes at last to detect and be repelled by the unattractiveness and absurdities. In time she will come to have a natural hunger for the normal and the true, just as she gets over her abnormal cravings for pickles and chocolates.

Fertile as Chicago is in crime, and always leading the lists with its contributions to the weird and horrible, the last offering surpasses any since the Underwood case. A young woman is induced to insure her life and transfer the policy to her betrothed husband. Then she dies under peculiarly suspicious circumstances that point to the beneficiary under the policy transfer, and the insurance companies resist payment upon the assumption that she has been murdered in order to defraud them. The lover and a practicing physician is placed under arrest. It is then shown that there was a conspiracy formed by three or four more, two of whom were detectives, of whom one is in custody. Then, as was to be expected, the whole case was revealed, and the detective, to save his miserable

life, "squealed." From what has been revealed the crime was heartless and deliberate beyond credence. The girl was made the object of special attention before she was led to engage herself to the man chosen to fill the role of lover. He deliberately won her heart and confidence, and it was therefore no mere opportunity that led the rascals to commit their infamous deed. They planned the crime first, and then went out to seek a victim and found her in an innocent and respectable young woman, whose life was sacrificed in cold blood and for the most sordid purposes.

Official approval encourages women to don the short skirt. The State Board of Health of Connecticut, through its secretary, Dr. C. A. Lindley, describes long skirts on the streets as pickers of filth. The short skirt is especially commended to teachers as a guarantee to that extent that microbes will not be swept by it from the thoroughfares into the schoolroom. Not for teachers only but for all women is the short skirt to be commended for outdoors. Its advantages are many. It enables a woman to walk more freely, throwing her shoulders back, keeping her hands and arms for defense in case of attack or accident and at the same time protecting her from entanglement in wheels or other obstructions in case of runaways. For this reason the iron tradition of the long-trained saddle gown has been broken. That tradition sacrifices more lives among women riders than all other causes of horseback fatalities. The hygienic virtues of the short skirt are so obvious that they need no recapitulation. Even on the dry and clean walks of private grounds and dwellings a trailing skirt is liable to garner microscopic germs. The dust of a city finds its way through the closest doors and windows and burrows with its pests in carpets. For city streets the long skirt is an amazing sign of stupidity on the part of the wearer. The hour may arrive when ordinance will forbid crossing-sweeping by textures certain to transport danger from ordure and sputa into public halls, churches and schools to the peril of humanity. It is pervertedly claimed by some too fanatical opponents of the common-sense skirt that all women wear the short skirt outdoors now except those whose feet are not properly shod or are otherwise unrepresentable. This is clearly a slander.

A man was arrested the other day for deserting his wife. Now, this thing of marrying a woman and then running away from her is bad. It ought to be generally discouraged. Still, there would seem to be exceptions even in matters of this kind. The man in the case appears to have had provocation. "She went to an astrologer," he explained to the magistrate, "and the astrologer told her she was going to be married twice. Being her first, I decided that it was up to me either to die or quit, and not wanting to die I thought I'd quit." We can't blame this poor man for wanting to get out of his predicament in the easiest way he could think of. There was the word of the astrologer, for which the woman had paid \$2 out of her husband's earnings. Was it for the latter to remain and take his chances? Obviously he could not do so without showing a contempt for life or exhibiting a disbelief in that which was perhaps a solace and a comfort to his wife. There was logic in his decision to take himself out of the way and give the other fellow a chance, but the woman, being determined that he should escape none of the hardships that fate had mapped out for him, went to the police and had the man arrested. Then a justice, with no idea of the fitness of things, ordered the husband to go back to his wife and support her, and there was nothing left for him to do but obey. It is such cases as this that cause pessimism to spread in the world. The woman has her next husband to look forward to, but what hope can there be for the man? What incentive can he have to go ahead and accumulate wealth, knowing that the astrologer or the second husband will get what is left out of the household expenses? In some respects it is still a sad old world.

Near Enough.
A group of men were exchanging stories of adventure in a grocer's store in a small Western town.
"I've been in camp," said one of them; "only came down yesterday. One morning last week I struck the trail of a grizzly about half a mile above the camp. I followed that trail without let up till about half-past four that afternoon, and then I gave it up, and went back to camp."
"What possessed you to quit after putting in a whole day's work?" asked one of his listeners.
"Well, to tell the truth," said the grizzly's follower, shifting his weight ponderously from one leg to the other, "it seemed to me the trail was getting altogether too fresh."

Decline of Whaling.
Whale fishing is not extinct in the United States, but it is gradually and slowly becoming so. From 1850 to 1875 the annual product of the American whale fisheries fell from 100,000 barrels of sperm oil to 42,000, of whale oil from 300,000 to 35,000, and of whalebone from 5,000,000 pounds to 400,000.

Some people never appreciate their own good conduct unless they hear a shocking story on a neighbor at least once a week.

About six months before a man buys his first glasses, he begins to find fault with the quality of the lights at his house.

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SUMMONS.
In the circuit court of the state of Oregon, for the county of Multnomah, Department No. 3.
J. H. Hooper, plaintiff, vs. Mary A. Hooper, defendant.
To Mary A. Hooper, defendant above named:
In the name of the state of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled suit, on or before the 8th day of December, 1900, which is the time prescribed in the order for the publication of this summons, and if you fail so to appear and answer, plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint, namely: For a decree dissolving the bonds of matrimony now existing between the plaintiff and defendant, and for the care and custody of Helen J. Hooper and Edgar W. Hooper, the issue of said marriage, and for such other relief as may be equitable.
This summons is to be published once a week for six successive weeks. First publication is the 27th day of October, 1900, and the last on the 8th day of December, 1900, by order of the Hon. J. B. Cleveland, judge of the above entitled court. Made and entered on the 20th day of October, 1900.
W. S. HUFFORD,
Attorney for Plaintiff.

SUMMONS.
In the circuit court of the state of Oregon for Multnomah county.
William L. Goff, plaintiff, vs. Lester M. Love, defendant.
To Lester M. Love, the above named defendant.
In the name of the state of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled action on or before the 10th day of December, A. D., 1900, said day being the expiration of six weeks from the 26th day of October, A. D., 1900, the date ordered by the court for the first publication of this notice, and if you fail to so appear and answer the plaintiff will take judgment against you for the sum of \$200 with interest thereon from January 1, 1872, at the rate of 10 per cent per annum and the costs and disbursements of this action.
This summons is published by order of the Hon. A. L. Frazier, judge of the above entitled court, made and entered on the 26th day of October, A. D., 1900.
GILTNER & REWALL,
Attorneys for Plaintiff.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.
Notice is hereby given that I have filed my final account as executor of the estate of F. H. Ramsey, deceased, in the office of the county clerk of Multnomah county, state of Oregon, and 9:30 o'clock on Monday, the 12th day of November, A. D. 1900, in the court room of said court, has been fixed by said court as the time and place for hearing said final account and the settlement hereof.
A. W. LAMBERT,
Executor of the estate of F. H. Ramsey, deceased.
Dated, October 4, 1900.

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