

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

The Japanese do not like to be called Japs, but it is not likely they will care to go to war about it.

Dr. Osler's mother is still alive at the age of 100, and seems destined to outlive her son's foolish talk.

When the Chinese authorities capture a pirate they separate him into two parts, and he goes out of business.

It has been discovered that a rat has a sixth sense. Even with that, however, it frequently fails to discover the proximity of a designing cat.

One of the learned scientists says that man is made of soap. Perhaps that is why he so often cleans out the treasury when he gets into office.

That Admires Eden that is being established in Texas will do well to nail up a "no hunting" sign if it is expected to keep Cupid off the premises.

"A traveler dropped a bomb in a Russian railway station yesterday." He may have been a post-bomb salesman, who considered it no trouble to show goods.

Mark Twain thinks the United States will eventually become a monarchy. Well, a humorist who is 71 years old has the right to think queer thoughts.

Dr. Dwight Hills says we need more poetry. There is danger in making such a statement too public. A lot of would-be poets are likely to take the doctor seriously.

An Amityville, N. Y., man has inherited \$1,000,000 because he went for thirteen years without drinking a drop of whisky. It ought to be hard after this to convince him that thirteen is an unlucky number.

Some scientist has discovered that the north pole is moving southward at the rate of twenty miles a year. Now if he has the courage of his convictions let him go up to Winnipeg and open a fur store.

"Blondes will be only history six hundred years from now," says the scientists. In the meantime they are poetry, romance, fiction—delightful, fascinating fiction. Feel sorry for the men of six hundred years hence.

There is a man in Philadelphia who claims to have invented a smoke consumer which in two years will save enough coal to pay for itself. The coal dealers can hardly be expected to encourage the use of such a contrivance.

All Americans of the future, according to one of the scientists, are to be like John D. Rockefeller. In other words, we are all to become bald, and probably there will be a chance for all of us to get rich selling stuff that we are to claim will make the hair grow.

Tradition says that the first locks were made in England during the reign of Alfred the Great, but it was not until civilization had progressed to the middle of the fourteenth century that their use became general, and only at the highly civilized period of the nineteenth century that steel vaults, burglar-proof safes and such things became necessary.

The immediate and all-important question is not why the frequent wrecks are so destructive, but why they should be allowed to occur in the first place. Steel cars, of course, are better than wooden, but there would be no complaint of danger from the latter if the number of wrecks could be reduced in this country to what experience abroad shows to be the unavoidable minimum. The mere prospect of collision-proof cars in the dim future will hardly divert public attention from the task in hand, which is to prevent the consequences of collision by abolishing collisions.

Young men of an adventurous turn of mind who lament that there is no longer any real excitement to be had in the Southwest need only to cross the Mexican boundary line in the neighborhood of Nogales, Ariz., and go after the Yaqui Indians. They will not have to hunt very long for all the excitement that they need. The Yaquis are brave, fierce and perfect gluttons for fighting, as the Mexican government knows to its cost. Indeed, if there are any soldiers of fortune out of work they can secure the contract of exterminating the Yaquis. They may not complete the job, but they will have the time of their lives attempting it.

Keep your thoughts on pure air in the home. Don't be afraid if it is a little cold. None of Peary's party could cold all the time they were in regions away below zero. Pure, unadulterated cold is healthful. It is not all the time pleasant, but one can wrap up sufficiently to provide against the discomfort of it. That is easy. That is what they do with consumptives—wrap them up warmly and put them out into the fresh, cold air. It is not the cold that hurts; it is the draft which disturbs the temperature of the body and consequently the equilibrium of the circulation, which in turn stuffs

up the capillaries, and there you are—sneezing, wheezing, coughing, hawking, grunting and making yourself a public calamity.

A respected business man killed himself recently because his wife's affections had been stolen. What of it? Nothing out of the ordinary, perhaps, save that the suicide left a note to the coroner, in which he recommended the passage of laws making home-wreckers criminals amenable to a punishment of thirty years' imprisonment. There's something to think about in that. Of course, the self-murderer was a coward. But that does not alter the fact that the man who entered his home and filched the wife's affections was worse than a coward. The innocent child who steals a loaf of bread from a bakery to keep her brothers and sisters from starvation is a criminal in the eyes of the law. The crawling thing that betrays friendship and squirms into a good man's home, stealing all that is best and purest in his life—what is he? Criminal? In the eyes of the law, no. Scoundrel? In the eyes of his fellow creatures—perhaps. A loaf of bread. A good woman's love. An innocent child. A cowardly scoundrel. The law. The suicide was right. There is something wrong somewhere.

The newspaper may be depressing reading for the young woman whose ambitions outstrip her conditions. In a single issue she may perhaps see the picture of a woman who has climbed several of the world's highest mountains; may read of another woman who has achieved success in musical composition, and of a third who has written a popular play; and may read the report of an address by a woman who is a dairy commissioner, and who is ready to throw the light of modern science on the chemical problems of butter and cheese making. These varied occupations with their rewards may make "the trivial round, the common task" seem flat and dull to the village girl whose activities are bounded by her horizon. She counts over her day's tasks. She has been up betimes to help with the breakfast, has made an ovenful of delicious pumpkin pies, and has swept halls and stairs. Then she has gone through the week's mending, and has ended the day by sitting for two hours with a sick neighbor, and by attending a choir rehearsal. But mountains and music, drama and chemistry—these are all out of her line. Are they really better than her cheerful housewifeliness and kindly service? In the largest view of life, hers is the nobler task. Music, drama, athletics and even applied science are the luxuries—the frills and furbelows of existence. Wholesome food, household cheer and neighborliness are the essentials of civilization. Without them we revert to barbarism. If we must choose between the woman who composes a symphony and the woman who makes a tempting lamb stew, the musician shall go. Fortunately, there is room in modern society for all talents. But as accomplishments grow more numerous and alluring, we must beware lest we turn the whole fabric of life upside down by setting its luxuries above its essentials.

REPORT OF THE REPORTER.

His Last Remark Ends Conversation with a Railroad President.

Charles M. Jacobs, the chief engineer of the Pennsylvania Railroad tunnel under the North River, recently conducted a party of railroad officials and reporters through the superb tunnel on foot, says the Pittsburg Dispatch.

At one stage of the program there was some slight delay and Mr. Jacobs said with a laugh to a reporter:

"We are not very punctual, eh? We are like a little country railroad that I used to ride on."

"To the president of this road a reporter went hurriedly one evening. 'I understand,' he said, 'that there has been an accident on your line to-night.'"

"Oh, you do, do you?" said the president with a sneer.

"Yes, sir." And the reporter waited, pencil in hand.

"What do you know about this accident?" the president, still sneering, asked.

"Nothing, except that it happened to the 9:15 train," the reporter meekly answered.

"Well," said the president, "that train came in on time to the minute."

"Are you sure of that?" said the reporter.

"Of course I am, sir."

"The disappointed reporter pocketed his tools:

"I suppose," he said, thoughtfully, "that must have been the accident referred to."

Healthfulness of Naps.

Prolonged "40 winks" during the day are severely condemned by many doctors on the ground that they affect one's regular sleep. Scientists have found that, ordinarily, in the human being there is the greatest vitality between 10 a. m. and 2 p. m., and the least between 2 o'clock and 6 o'clock in the morning. Long sleeps during the day interfere with this order of nature and sometimes affect various organs, causing headache. The nap of 40 winks, but only 40, proves refreshing to many because it is too short to have any injurious consequences.

Travel and Education.

Bacon—Don't you think travel is a great educator? Egbert—Oh, yes; a man would never know that car windows were not made to open easily unless he traveled. Yonkers Statesman.

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