

The Oregonian

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-class Matter. Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance. Daily, Sunday included, one year, \$2.00. Daily, Sunday included, three months, .75. Daily, Sunday included, one month, .25. Daily, without Sunday, one year, \$1.50. Daily, without Sunday, three months, .50. Daily, without Sunday, one month, .15. Weekly, one year, \$1.00. Sunday, one year, \$1.50. Single copies, 5 cents.

BY CARRIER. Daily, Sunday included, one year, \$2.00. Daily, Sunday included, three months, .75. Daily, Sunday included, one month, .25. Daily, without Sunday, one year, \$1.50. Daily, without Sunday, three months, .50. Daily, without Sunday, one month, .15. Weekly, one year, \$1.00. Sunday, one year, \$1.50. Single copies, 5 cents.

PORTLAND, SUNDAY, DEC. 8, 1912.

THE COMPENSATION BILL.

The workmen's compensation bill prepared for submission to the Legislature by a commission appointed by the Governor, might more properly be termed a state industrial insurance act. In brief, it provides for contributions by employer, employee and state to a fund to be administered by a state board and fixes rates of compensation for injuries to workmen.

It is termed "elective," but it is not elective in the strict meaning of the word. The employer or employee may elect not to come within the scope of the act, but unless he gives written notice he is presumed to accept its provisions. Upon the employer it is practically compulsory. While it is generally admitted that the common law defenses work to the grave injustice of the employee, their complete abrogation goes to the other extreme by turning the injustice against the employer.

The compensation bill in theory treats injuries as a joint fault; the workman makes his contribution in the form of injury while the employer makes his contribution in the form of money paid to the workman. The proposed Oregon law says to the employer, "Take this or you get something worse," for the employer elects not to come within the terms of the act he is to be deprived of all common-law defenses—assumption of risk, fellow-servant and contributory negligence rules. Extreme liability is imposed upon him if he declines to enter into an arrangement for compensation and state to share liability with him.

Indirect compulsion to accept the provisions of a properly framed compensation law is objectionable. Compulsory industrial insurance is likely to promote low rates and distribute the risks more equitably among employers and benefit the general public in the saving in court costs, but the bill permits the employee also to withdraw from the provisions and benefits of the act. As we read the bill the employee who declines to accept its provisions has preserved for him the right to sue for damages for personal injuries under the terms of the existing employer's liability law. This liability law was adopted in 1910 by initiative, was proposed by organized labor and is in its operations favorable to the cause of the injured workman. In effect, therefore, the bill is compulsory on employees, for the latter have a fairly acceptable alternative, while the former have not.

In an introductory statement made to the Governor the commission leaves the inference that it was favorably disposed toward a compulsory law, but adopted the "elective" feature as being more certainly constitutional. Two court decisions are referred to as bearing on the case. One is the opinion of the New York Court of Appeals, holding the compulsory compensation law of that state unconstitutional; the other is the opinion of the Washington State Supreme Court declaring the compulsory compensation law of that state not in conflict with fundamental law. "It was enough to know," says the commission, "that a grave and serious question of constitutionality must exist if a compulsory law should be enacted, and a question which should have been determined by the Supreme Court of the United States, and then only after a lapse of a long period of uncertainty."

But has the Governor's commission found the real constitutional danger and avoided it in its bill? The New York case, according to our understanding, hinges on the fact that the attempt of the Legislature to abolish wholly the defense of assumption of risk and not on the mere fact that the law was compulsory in form. The assumption of risk defense is two-fold. The New York Court held that it might be abolished so far as conditions of work are concerned, but that to make employer liable for injuries resulting to workmen from the inherent risk of the occupation, and where the employer was not at fault would be to property without due process of law, and therefore be unconstitutional. The Oregon bill, which is based on the assumption of risk and makes no exception that we can discover of risks inherent to occupation. It thus crosses a danger line which the commission parently sought to avoid.

Moreover, the commission has passed another question in requiring an affirmative act by employer or employee to secure avoidance of the obligations and benefits of the act. In the absence of notice this law would presume the existence of a fact—that the contract of employment included the compensation features of the act. The Alabama Supreme Court has held that a presumption of fact or liability against a litigant is not due process of law. Aside from the possible legal danger in enacting this form of elective law, it would seem that there are some more or less practical every-day objections to it in its present form. When the isolated casual employee, the one who should be stated, applies only to casual or hazardous employments, but in the case of those declared hazardous are not well digging and building connection. It cannot be presumed that a board which collects and administers the fund will seek out every employer in building construction and well-digging. But unless the employer or employee in such isolated cases gives written notice, he is entitled to the benefits of the act. The probable result would be that many employers who should avoid liability under the compensation fund would not do so. The small, casual employer would not be heard from one of his men was injured. At the event the injured employee

would be entitled to compensation from the state fund and the Industrial Commission could proceed to collect the overdue fees from the employer. The final result would be that only those casual employers whose workmen suffered accidents would pay, while the larger and continuing industrial employer would contribute whether they had accidents or not.

Another feature of the act that may arouse criticism is the relief given employers and employees under certain conditions, from contributing to the compensation fund. This exemption occurs when three per cent of the annual payroll of the employer has been contributed and no charges for accidents have been made against him and the fund itself remains in condition to meet all obligations. It would seem that such a plan would finally work to the exemption in part or in whole after the lapse of one year, of many employees who labor in permanent occupations. But there are temporary occupations also deemed hazardous. The laborer on temporary jobs and some classes of trades workers would not be perpetually paying into the fund. They would meet with accidents, but the employers had not previously been affected by the act. It may be said that such workmen may give notice that they reject the act but if the bill proposes benefits for workmen it ought not to make those benefits cost the workmen whose jobs are necessary to the permanent workers who as a rule are better able to pay.

Legislation involving workmen's compensation for injuries is at best a perplexing subject. As the Governor's commission says, it would be impossible to legislate a law that would meet with unanimous approval. There are certain moot questions that invariably arise. They include the form of the act, the method of administration, the schedule of compensation, the matter of requiring state and employee to contribute to the fund or to shift the burden on the employer, and others. The proposed act will therefore not escape criticism or perhaps amendment. But the principle involved is sound and it is a proper subject for careful consideration by the Legislature.

YOUR WISE LEGISLATOR.

Six weeks cover the biennial legislative sessions of Oregon. Six hundred to eight hundred bills, or more, are introduced and one to two hundred are passed. The bills that are passed on the calendar, or die in committee. Along about this time, just before the Legislature meets, it is customary for the newspapers and other public economists to begin a campaign to shorten the forty-day sessions. But they are never shortened. The first forty days are spent in preliminary work; the final two or three weeks are devoted to real business.

The wise Legislator has his bills ready at the beginning of the session, or very near the beginning. He prepares for them early action by committee. They get advanced positions on the calendar. There is early final action. Thus he gets results. The unwisdom or inexperienced Legislator waits to see how the land lies. He is not ready when the session opens. He begins to get busy after he hears the ropes. He is frequently late.

If the members of the 1913 Legislature desire to make a good record for themselves as individuals and for the entire body, they will be ready for active work when the Legislature is organized.

WILL THE TARIFF BE REVISED?

President-elect Wilson's decision to call an extra session of Congress to revise the tariff has met with almost universal approval. Democrats say the delay in carrying out their pledges, since revision is to come, the sooner it is over the better. Even those protected manufacturers whose interests will be most affected express anxiety to have the affair ended, preferring to know the extent to which they must suffer rather than to remain in prolonged suspense. Only here and there do we hear the old standpat wailing that tariff reduction means closing mills and thousands of men facing starvation.

While Underwood, the chief tariff-drafter, is fully controls the House majority that he can surely carry through his programme of passing a series of bills reducing individual schedules, regardless of the local interests which some members of his party desire to protect, there is great uncertainty about the Senate. The forthcoming Democratic elections can hardly be predicted at most, so slender a majority that they must muster every vote in order to secure approval of the Underwood programme. It is a foregone conclusion that the two Louisiana Senators would vote against a bill putting sugar on the free list or piling to the bone duties on that commodity, but they would probably be joined by the two Democrats to be elected in Colorado, who will wish to shield the beet sugar interests of that state from the effects of free trade. Senators from Southern lumber states would be likely to take the same position regarding a deep cut in lumber duties. The same prediction may be made as to the attitude of Senators from Southern cotton-spinning states towards lower cotton duties. Although a combination of these Senators for mutual defense of their pet interests would have to be made more in the open than the Senate is inclined to do, they might still hesitate to combine in a logrolling agreement of mutual defense. Reports from Washington say that a quiet poll is already being made with this end in view.

In order to carry out any programme on which they are agreed, the Democrats and Underwood therefore will be compelled to make terms with those Senators or to force them into supporting the will of the party majority. Should they make terms, they can do so only by a sacrifice of principle which will expose them to the onslaught of the public. The party majority will not be able to do so. The party majority will not be able to do so. The party majority will not be able to do so.

Either outcome would be a wide departure from the policy outlined by Wilson in his inaugural address in the North American Review in October, 1912. He then spoke for "a process of alteration, steadily and courageously persisted in," a principle "followed with courage, intelligence and

integrity." He has since reaffirmed his belief in the same policy, though in different words. In his speech of acceptance he declared for revision downward, "unhesitatingly and steadily downward." He has declared for incidental protection to those industries which are undeveloped or only imperfectly developed. How could he reconcile a surrender to the Southern Democratic protectionists with persistent following of a principle "with courage, intelligence and integrity" with revision "unhesitatingly and steadily downward" established with "the schedules which have been most obviously used to kill competition?"

All the fitness of the man who pushed his progressive measures through a New Jersey Legislature, one house of which was controlled by his opponents, will be required if Wilson is to secure tariff revision in accordance with the principle he has laid down. If he should sacrifice the principle in order to get something done, he would have to meet the same storm of discontent which has made tariff revision the greatest opportunity to make their bills law, there are already balking. Can Wilson drive them or coax them to take the jump, knowing as they do that the majority of the voters, though divided on other issues, was of one mind in favoring protection?

So long as the Republicans were able to present the tariff as a Democratic platform, the Democrats went forward bravely to put their professed principles in practice, knowing, as Underwood has said, that their bills would not become law. Now that they are soon to have the opportunity to make their bills law, there are already balking. Can Wilson drive them or coax them to take the jump, knowing as they do that the majority of the voters, though divided on other issues, was of one mind in favoring protection?

WHERE IS THE LIBEL COMMITTED?

A friend at Seattle has taken the trouble to send to The Oregonian the copy of an opinion by Superior Judge Ronald, deciding a case of criminal libel, wherein it was sought to hale a San Francisco editor to Washington for the purpose of suing for libel under the laws of that state. The contention of the state was in essence that the offense of libel is committed wherever the newspaper is circulated; the position of the defense was that the prosecution must be at the place where the newspaper is first published. The case presented certain variations from this general principle, based on the particular statutory provisions of Washington; but they need not be discussed here. Judge Ronald properly held that the libel, if committed, presumably it might be in San Francisco.

Judge Ronald has laid down no new doctrine of law; but he has, on the contrary, made a ruling in accord with the well-known uniform attitude of the courts. If a newspaper may be prosecuted for libel wherever it circulates, it may be prosecuted for libel wherever it is published. It is not to be a travesty on justice.

Colonel Roosevelt learned that, with all his great power and authority, he could not choose the exact method, or determine the place, where he should proceed against the New York World and the Indianapolis News for libel in the Panama case. His intention was in effect that in libeling him they had grossly slandered the United States Government, and he sought to take the cases into the United States Courts, and to try at least one of them at Washington. He failed. He should have failed.

NAVY CONTROVERSY WILL REOPEN.

The battleship controversy in Congress will be renewed at the present session, when the Secretary of the Navy comes up for consideration in connection with the naval appropriation bill. Though at the last session he had difficulty in squeezing money for one battleship out of the hand of a very reluctant Congress, he comes forward again with a request for three battleships, for war, and three destroyers, two battle cruisers and a proportionate number of minor vessels, though the general board of the Navy asks for four battleships. He tells Congress that a total of forty-one battleships and a proportional number of other vessels is needed to keep our Navy on a safe basis in its relations with other world powers, and that, having reached this number, the fleet should be kept up to it by replacing obsolete vessels with new ones by a uniform yearly programme.

Though this request is backed by sound argument as to necessity of preparedness, for war, and though Meyer advances the objection that the Panama Canal will double the power of the fleet, he can hardly hope to secure approval by Congress for his whole programme. Still he will have less trouble than he had in the last session, for the Democratic majority in the House was so divided and such bitter controversy resulted that the leaders have decided to make no attempt to bind all Democratic members to support caucus action at this session; in fact, they will have no caucus on the naval bill and each member will thus be able to vote as he pleases without risking his party standing. The attempt to deny any battleship appropriation provoked such loud protest throughout the country that the leaders abandoned it and the Baltimore convention sought to overcome the unfavorable impression created on public opinion by promising that the Democratic Administration would "maintain an adequate and well-proportioned Navy" and by indorsing the scheme for a council of National defense, which is recommended by Meyer.

The Secretary makes a most satisfactory showing of the state of efficiency to which he has brought the fleet by reorganizing his department and by putting the Navy yards on a business basis. At the annual mobilization of the Atlantic fleet this year he mustered thirty-one battleships, four armored cruisers and eighty-eight smaller vessels with 29,000 officers and men, as compared with twenty-four battleships, two armored cruisers, aggregating 576,834 tons and having 25,000 officers and men last year. Since 1909 he has increased the num-

ber of vessels in active service or ready from 113 to 166 and has decreased the number repairing from fifty to twenty. He will hand over to his successor a most efficient Navy, and if it should deteriorate during the term which will follow, he will know where to place the blame. HODGES.

ALBANY COLLEGE.

The public is now called upon to contribute to the endowment of Albany College, an institution that for many years has had an important place in the life and affairs of the Willamette Valley and that has been under the special patronage of the Presbyterian Church. The unthinking person, impatient of the frequent appeals of religious, charitable and educational organizations for financial aid, is likely to declare that there is no end to a practice that he carelessly calls "begging." But it is not begging, it is open, wide and generous, and it is wisely and carefully expended, and it pays.

It is a good thing for Albany and the surrounding county, for example, to have the responsibility of a college. It is a center of social, political, educational and religious influence; it elevates the public spirit; it stimulates higher and better community spirit; it radiates culture; it helps in every branch of the general welfare.

There are many colleges, academies and universities in Oregon. It is a struggle to keep them all going. But the effort is worth making. Albany College is a good thing for Albany and the surrounding county, for example, to have the responsibility of a college. It is a center of social, political, educational and religious influence; it elevates the public spirit; it stimulates higher and better community spirit; it radiates culture; it helps in every branch of the general welfare.

CALEB CUSHING.

The completion of the first fifty years before the Geneva arbitration tribunal, in 1872, recalls to the public mind the stately and imposing figure of Caleb Cushing. There is a brief account of him in the Green Bay for December. He was the leading lawyer for the United States before that international court, and no doubt it was his notable work in which he was the cause. At any rate, he was the most powerful factor in determining the decision. The Geneva arbitration will always be famous in history because it was the first instance where two great nations had formally submitted a cause of contention to a regularly constituted tribunal. It was an arbitration well known in the world at that time. It has always been a more or less common method of adjusting international difficulties, but not quite in the form it assumed at Geneva. By submitting their trouble to a tribunal of arbitration, the United States and England and the United States set an example which the world will find it more and more profitable to follow as time passes and war becomes increasingly ruinous. Cushing had prepared himself for the exalted service which he rendered to humanity at Geneva by a life of unbroken integrity and high character. He was one of those men to whom toil is a delight and achievement a habit.

Caleb Cushing was born in Massachusetts in the year 1806. He distinguished himself by entering Harvard College when he was 13 and graduating at 17. He was a lawyer and an occasional lecturer at Harvard by the time he is 12 or 13 years old, but the rule is to enter at about the age of 20. At 17, when Caleb Cushing graduated, the ordinary modern youth is just in the middle of his high school course. It cannot be said that the student entered the college at an early age, as young as Cushing, but he managed it as a rule a good deal younger than they do now. Nor can it be said that upon the whole they were less thoroughly prepared or knew less when they came out. Cushing was famed among his contemporaries as a universal scholar, and his knowledge of Greek, Latin and French, his knowledge for his realm, like Bacon. We may discount this estimate of a professional brother without deprecating Cushing's genuine achievements.

THE NEW ASTRONOMY.

Persons who are properly interested in their home will read with satisfaction a series of articles appearing in the World's Work has begun to publish on "Exploring Other Worlds." It is, in fact, an extended account of the universe, the only home we have. The series begins with a pretty thorough clearing away of most of our common conceptions about the stars and planets. The famous nebular hypothesis, the belief in the plurality of worlds, ancient ideas of the creation, all receive severe shocks if they are not totally swept away. Here is a specimen of the author's iconoclasm. "The common conception of the universe has been of a multitude of suns each with its system of planets. There is not a particle of evidence that a single planet exists in any system except our own tiny one." Of course that all depends on our notions of evidence. The writer of the World's Work articles is William Bayard Hale. There are plenty of astronomers as good and great as he who see any quantity of evidence that the plurality of worlds, Mr. Hale himself says in another paragraph that space is full of dark bodies, going heaven knows whither, and he assigns no very weighty reasons for doubting that many of them may be planets with inhabitants of some species. The trouble with our astronomers is that they lack imagination. When it comes to inventing facts about dead matter they are expert enough, but the thought of living beings seems to stupefy their minds. It does not seem to us to be a very difficult trick to people even a blazing star with intelligent creatures. All that is necessary is to endow them with infusible bodies. The souls will take care of themselves in any temperature.

Mr. Hale wishes his readers to dismiss "summarily" another long-cherished idea. It is the idea that astronomers are a pallid race who spend their nights with a telescope and their days making abstruse calculations, so absorbed all the time in their profound investigations that they forget to eat or drink. This he assures us is not to be received any longer, though it may have been true in former years. The modern astronomer does not give his eye to the telescope. He fixes a photographic plate there in its place and reads the message the heavens imprint through the stilly darkness at his leisure in the afternoon while he digests a good luncheon. As a matter of fact, photography is rapidly replacing the old-fashioned observations. The old-fashioned observations of the sky will always be taken at some stations for practical reasons. One of the most interesting studies of current astronomy is that of the elements and motions of the distant stars. Both of these subjects are investigated with the spectroscopic, one of the most wonderful of human inventions and at the same time one of the simplest. It is nothing more in principle than an arrangement for resolving light into the various colors of the spectrum and observing them accurately.

Crossing the colored spectrum there are great numbers of dark lines which give the key to stellar physics and motion. Each of these lines corresponds to a chemical element. When the element exists in the flaming atmosphere of a star the line is black in its spectrum. The vapor of sodium, for example, absorbs the light which corresponds to sodium in the sun and

leaves nothing but a black line. Since astronomers know perfectly well where the line of light of each element ought to be in the spectrum, this gives them a means of actually analyzing the constituents of the stars. It also gives them a means of detecting elements in the stars which do not exist on the earth. Some have been named and their properties indicated, of which no human being ever saw a specimen. Aided by the spectroscope, astronomers have been able not only to tell what the stars are made of, but more wonderful still, to ascertain the nature of the distant nebulae. It was formerly supposed that these extraordinary appearances were simply groups of remote stars. Being so extremely distant, their light merged and presented the aspect of a dimly luminous cloud. This is true of some of the nebulae, but not of all. The spectroscopic has revealed that nebulae often consist of attenuated gas. "So vast are they that many of them must occupy billions of times the space of our solar system, though they are so tenuous that they appear merely as faint spots against the background of the sky."

The gaseous nebulae occasionally inclose stars in their substance from which the tenuous cloud extends outward in enormous spirals. Astronomers have fancied that these curious aggregations may be universes in the process of manufacture. We must say "manufacture," not "creation," for Mr. Hale assures us that no such event as creation ever occurred. "The fact is," he writes with some justifiable indignation at popular inaccuracies, "that the universe was never created. It is being made, destroyed and remade all the time. The telescope and the spectroscopic bring down to us pictures of parts of it in all the stages of growth and decay." The stars inclosed in the nebulous spiral are perhaps somewhat condensed and may in the course of time surround themselves with inhabited planets. Such worlds, if they ever come into existence, will enjoy four or five suns and bring to pass the promise of Revelations that "there shall be no night there." When one sun sets two or three others will be rising.

SMITH'S "ECCE DEUS."

The Oregonian prints this morning another letter from David Rosenwald on the question of the gentleman's views may be, he states them temperately and with a knowledge of a certain school of critical thought which makes them interesting. Upon the general subject we have said all that we think essential to present. Speaking of Professor Smith's "Ecce Deus," the Oregonian has received a letter from him in which he thanks this paper for its reference to him and adds that his "Ecce Deus" has appeared in an English edition and can be procured from the American agents, The Open Court Publishing Company, of Chicago. By the way, it is not interesting to note that this celebrated American scholar found it advisable to write his critical books in German and publish them in Europe? Why did he not write them in English and publish them in the United States? In any case, they are not accessible to American readers. No doubt those who peruse them, especially the "Ecce Deus," will be richly repaid. Of this book Professor Smith writes The Oregonian: "Certainly no one can understand the present state of the controversy who has not studied this work, and he goes on to say that 'the monothelistic and the German theological periodicals, though they stand for views opposite to Smith's, now make such sweeping concessions as to astonish one.' He concludes with the polite remark that since The Oregonian is a newspaper of uncommon intelligence and critical attainments it might be interested that we could read his 'Ecce Deus' without interest.

The reader will perceive to his amazement that here is a theological controversy in which the disputants have come off thus far without tearing each other's eyes. We are glad to concede that Professor Smith is a critic of rare scholarship and exceeding acuteness, though we cannot accept his conclusions. On the other hand we take his compliments for what they are worth and hope that we may continue to merit them.

Following a young woman upon whom he had centered his affections, from Oklahoma, and escaping from the police only to risk his life in a flying leap for to win her hand. His latest conquest, an Oklahoma widow of twenty-one displays the common hysteria that is popularly classified as love. The girl doesn't want him, appealed to the police to keep him away, and yet he persists in an unbridled attempt to win her hand. His latest conquest cannot live without her, whereas it is likely, being obviously ill-balanced and weak, he couldn't live with her.

THE NEW ASTRONOMY.

Persons who are properly interested in their home will read with satisfaction a series of articles appearing in the World's Work has begun to publish on "Exploring Other Worlds." It is, in fact, an extended account of the universe, the only home we have. The series begins with a pretty thorough clearing away of most of our common conceptions about the stars and planets. The famous nebular hypothesis, the belief in the plurality of worlds, ancient ideas of the creation, all receive severe shocks if they are not totally swept away. Here is a specimen of the author's iconoclasm. "The common conception of the universe has been of a multitude of suns each with its system of planets. There is not a particle of evidence that a single planet exists in any system except our own tiny one." Of course that all depends on our notions of evidence. The writer of the World's Work articles is William Bayard Hale. There are plenty of astronomers as good and great as he who see any quantity of evidence that the plurality of worlds, Mr. Hale himself says in another paragraph that space is full of dark bodies, going heaven knows whither, and he assigns no very weighty reasons for doubting that many of them may be planets with inhabitants of some species. The trouble with our astronomers is that they lack imagination. When it comes to inventing facts about dead matter they are expert enough, but the thought of living beings seems to stupefy their minds. It does not seem to us to be a very difficult trick to people even a blazing star with intelligent creatures. All that is necessary is to endow them with infusible bodies. The souls will take care of themselves in any temperature.

Mr. Hale wishes his readers to dismiss "summarily" another long-cherished idea. It is the idea that astronomers are a pallid race who spend their nights with a telescope and their days making abstruse calculations, so absorbed all the time in their profound investigations that they forget to eat or drink. This he assures us is not to be received any longer, though it may have been true in former years. The modern astronomer does not give his eye to the telescope. He fixes a photographic plate there in its place and reads the message the heavens imprint through the stilly darkness at his leisure in the afternoon while he digests a good luncheon. As a matter of fact, photography is rapidly replacing the old-fashioned observations. The old-fashioned observations of the sky will always be taken at some stations for practical reasons. One of the most interesting studies of current astronomy is that of the elements and motions of the distant stars. Both of these subjects are investigated with the spectroscopic, one of the most wonderful of human inventions and at the same time one of the simplest. It is nothing more in principle than an arrangement for resolving light into the various colors of the spectrum and observing them accurately.

Crossing the colored spectrum there are great numbers of dark lines which give the key to stellar physics and motion. Each of these lines corresponds to a chemical element. When the element exists in the flaming atmosphere of a star the line is black in its spectrum. The vapor of sodium, for example, absorbs the light which corresponds to sodium in the sun and

leaves nothing but a black line. Since astronomers know perfectly well where the line of light of each element ought to be in the spectrum, this gives them a means of actually analyzing the constituents of the stars. It also gives them a means of detecting elements in the stars which do not exist on the earth. Some have been named and their properties indicated, of which no human being ever saw a specimen. Aided by the spectroscope, astronomers have been able not only to tell what the stars are made of, but more wonderful still, to ascertain the nature of the distant nebulae. It was formerly supposed that these extraordinary appearances were simply groups of remote stars. Being so extremely distant, their light merged and presented the aspect of a dimly luminous cloud. This is true of some of the nebulae, but not of all. The spectroscopic has revealed that nebulae often consist of attenuated gas. "So vast are they that many of them must occupy billions of times the space of our solar system, though they are so tenuous that they appear merely as faint spots against the background of the sky."

Scraps and Jingles

Leone Cass Baez. Seasonable greeting—Yule be mine. I'd like to serve on a jury to try the individuals who curtail Christmas to Xmas. I'd give 'em life and ten years. Stenographer excused her inability to spell on the ground that her employer's voice was so eloquent it awed her. Exactly! Spell-bound, it was were. When Christmas day Children claim To when the windows all display Covered with their gifts. When the grate's grateful fires Show greater brightness And all the best acquire Exquisite politeness; 'Tis scraps of months ago You now remember. Take it from me all are signs It is the best of times.

Newspaper account tells of man who went to Monte Carlo to win enough to defray his wedding expenses, and then at the end of the article naively remarks, "The wedding has been postponed two years." "How distressing," wails an article, "when an actress realises she has lost her voice!" Yes, but how distressing when she doesn't realize it. When women begin to tell one of their sisters "how young she's looking" she may know she's getting old. "Eggs are indigestible," says an article on dietetics. Only when omelette, I think. When dancers rag and turkey trot, It gives me just one bitter trot; It is the best of times, And overrule the motion.

Ballad of the Late Shopper

Spirits of Christmas tide attend, The while I do relate The ballad of the sink who did His shopping late. The day of Christmas gifts drew nigh, But, down and surly, He mocked at those who did advise For shopping early. And always, though the nearer drew The Christmas eve, He'd say, "I'll do my shopping soon," he said, "There's lots of time." The people came, the people went, And daily bought, The cream of Christmas goods that could be valued aught. And it was on Christmas eve, When he, awaking, Perceived what rapid rate of flight Old Time was making. Forth to the stores he fled apace, But, woefully, Perceived \$10.00 in the same Sad plight as he. "I've been past the answer of facie pen Or clever brush, To picture all the horrors of That Christmas crush. The mob surged here and likewise there, In maddened rout, And, crowded and packed in the mess, Were carried out. He plunged into the surging throng, With zeal aglow, And lost his hat, and someone trod Upon his toe. He lost his collar, tore his coat, And all the while, To shouting shrieks right and left Blocked up the aisle. And when at last he staggered forth, Dismayed and hot, Three postcards, and a statuette Were all he'd got. Nay, worse! The toe they trod upon And ground to mince; Develop'd a lockjaw, Not spoken since. Attend my moral: Dodge the rush And, pronto, forthwith, now, at once, Go shopping early. —Portland, Dec. 7.

What Santa Did.

Clara Putnam Lippincott's. 'Twas the night before Christmas, and Jacob and Gretchen Lay snug in their bed in the Dornhoefer kitchen. Not a sound save the song that the gay clock sang, And a faint, sleepy murmur, "Top klickin' my shlix." Could be heard in the Dornhoefer kitchen that night; But there by the fire, in the moon's silver light, In a short, straggling row lay four queer little shoes. Left there for the jolly Krisingle to use. Then suddenly Gretchen sat up with a start And beheld Jacob's eyes (you can't tell them apart. Those Dornhoefer twins, in the brightest light). So how could poor Gretchen be sure in the night? And they laughed as they thought of the words Santa'd use, For they'd hid a mouse-trap in each of their shoes. Well, Santa Claus came, and the mouse-trap went awol, And Santa said something that sounded like "Ho, ho, ho!" And the Moon said she saw just the strangest of things; 'Twas Santa Claus speaking the Dornhoefer twins.

Hogs Run a Pear Tree.

Salem (Mich.) Sunbeam. Do animals reason? Well a Lower Creek farmer's hogs pasturing in a pear orchard apparently do, for hanging like turns in going to low hanging limbs of the pear trees, grasp with the mouth a limb containing pears, sit on the pears fall, which the other hogs come and eat.

Why the Widow Has Hopes.

Judge. Louise—Why do you think the widow wants to marry again? "Because, about the time she gets her age dark and her hair light."