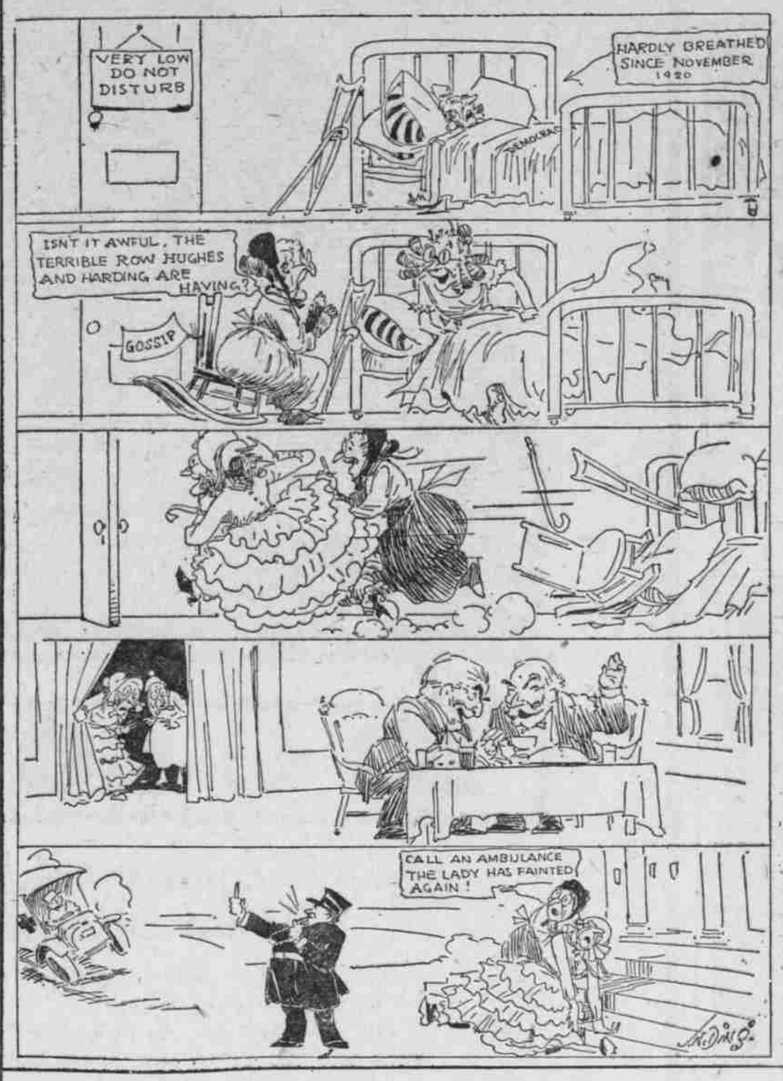
CURRENT HAPPENINGS PICTORIALLY PRESENTED BY DARLING

WE HOPE WE MAY BE EXCUSED IF WE JUST HAPPEN TO REMEMBER AN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENT.

THE FIRST SIGNS OF LIFE IN MONTHS.



KEEP PUSHING IT, ARISTIDE, SOMEBODY WILL COME TO THE DOOR AFTER A WHILE.

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO INVEST THEIR SPARE CHANGE IN GROCERIES?

COMING TO HIS SENSES.

HE'LL HAVE TO CUT OUT HIS OLD ASSOCIATIONS FIRST.

OREGON DECLARED TO BE NATIVE HOME OF MANY UNTABULATED KINDS OF MOSS

Lower Plants Await Thorough Study and Identification, According to Professor Mary C. Van Wert; Growth Is Humble One—Albany College Faculty Member Says 100 Varieties Exist Near School.

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NOT only is Oregon the land of roses, but it is the native home of many species of mosses. While the higher seed plants of the state are well known, the lowly mosses await a thorough study and identification. No one knows exactly how many are native to Oregon, but there are probably several hundred kinds. There are at least a hundred in the vicinity of Albany.

Botanically the mosses are bryophytes. Many other plants also are called mosses—such as the long moss of Florida, reindeer moss, Irish moss, sea mosses and club mosses. None of these, however, have the same structure and kind of growth as the bryophytes. In Oregon too grow the two classes of bryophytes—one which includes the liverworts and scale mosses and the other, the true mosses or Musci. A common liverwort, much studied in botanical laboratories, is the Marchantia, a plant which clings closely to the soil of damp places and which has no true stem or leaves. The scale mosses are sometimes mistaken for the Musci—but their tiny green leaves are generally lobed and lack a midrib. A common scale moss, a Porella, grows in dense green mats on trunks and branches of trees.

Mosses Humble Plants.

The mosses are humble plants which grow almost everywhere except in salt water. They are always low in stature and produce no showy floral parts. They draw their nourishment largely from air and rain and often grow where larger or more artistocratic plants could hardly find a footing. Many would scarcely be noticed if they did not grow in dense cushions.

Economically their service to man is comparatively simple and yet it is a real service after all. Mosses are hygroscopic and capable of holding much water. Hence they hold back the rainfall and are therefore preventers of floods. The Coliseum of ancient Rome was built from calcareous tufa. Geologists tell us that an aquatic moss precipitated the limestone from the stream in which it grew and in the course of several thousand years formed the tufa. Of greater interest are the peat mosses or Sphagna which are common in bogs near the coast. Economically, the Sphagna are the most important of all the mosses. Not only is peat, a well known fuel, formed from these—but they are more absorptive and antiseptic than absorbent cotton. Hence, during the war vast quantities were used in surgical pads. And in Italy where the sphagnum beds are said to be inexhaustible, a kind of peat charcoal is manufactured which gives greater heat than ordinary wood charcoal.

Everyone recognizes that the mosses are plants of great beauty, but to be fully appreciated they must be seen with the compound microscope. The structure of greatest interest is the tiny brown capsule, a complicated affair which usually bears around its mouth one or two rows of delicate teeth which open in dry weather to allow the spores to escape from the urn of the capsule. The microscopic reproductive organs are to be found in cup-shaped rosettes of leaves which often terminate the stem of a moss plant.

The various kinds of mosses are somewhat difficult to determine without close study, but some, like the hairy caps, resemble little juniper trees and are widely distributed. The common hairy cap grows at least six inches tall at Newport and is readily known by its shaggy veil which covers the capsule and which is likened to a little Robinson Crusoe cap. The Catherineas too belong to the hairy cap family and have slender reddish capsules. They are named in honor of a Russian empress, Catherine II.

Plants At Best in Woods.

To see the mosses at their best, one must visit the woods on a rainy day. For in dry weather they are inconspicuous with their leaves folded or twisted about their stems. One of the loveliest of the Oregon mosses is the alsia abietina, which lives on tree trunks. When dry, the feather-like "fronds" are like curled ostrich plumes, but on a damp day they uncurl and resemble ferns. The capsules are small brown affairs hardly visible. A favorite moss which dwells on the ground in ravines is the glittering feather moss. It grows at Multnomah falls, and its shiny, fern-like plants can be told by their method of branching.

The young branches always grow directly upon the "fronds" of the older ones. Pale green mats of Hedwig's moss are common on tree branches in the Willamette valley. This plant is often associated with the porella and its capsules are entirely hidden among the leaves. A soil-lover is the shaggy moss which only occasionally produces capsules. According to Grout, this plant is especially valuable for the packing of china. The peristome teeth, the interesting leaves and numerous methods of propagation of the various species deserve glowing description.

Much of the beauty and utility of our forests would be wanting were it not for these humble, soft green plants; and since they are plants characteristic of the rainy Oregon climate, they deserve further attention.

Bright Sayings of the Children

PHILIP was playing football, when he heard his father calling. The boys urged him to stay and finish the game, but he replied: "Can't stop, kids, when he talks in that voice." J. W.

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Jeanne came over to see me, and brought her friend Nancy. I asked them if they were having a good time playing house.

Jeanne replied, "No."

I asked her why.

"O, 'cause Nancy plays bullheaded," she answered. L. S.

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Evelyn and Marion visited one of their neighbors and while they were playing games the hostess entertained with a few pieces of music on the phonograph. After they had left the younger one of the girls returned and said: "I came back to thank you for the funny noise you made." S. B.

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We were having bargain day at the stores. One store advertised a "1 cent sale," meaning that if the purchaser bought any article at the regular price he would receive, by paying only 1 cent more, another article of the same kind.

Margaret went to the sale with her aunt and mother.

"Mother," she whispered, "let's get auntie to buy one of those boxes of candy for 50 cents, and then we can buy the penny one." E. C. B.

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Ralph was not enjoying his new trousers, because he thought they were too loose. Being invited to a children's party, he cried and said he didn't want to go if he had to wear his "fat" pants. M. O. C.

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When I asked Millie how old her brothers were she answered: "I am bigger than the littlest one and littler than the biggest one." K. S.

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On hearing distressful cries from the bathroom, mother rushed to the scene in time to hear Byron exclaim amid tears, "W-Willie d-dropped the towel in the w-w-water, and now he's dried me wetter'n I was b-before." W. M.

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Beulah got a new set of furs for her birthday, but she positively refused to wear them. Her mother coaxed and begged in vain.

"Why, mamma," smiled Beulah, condescendingly, "do you think I'm a zoo?" I. D. A.

* * *

Margaret and Bobby were playing in the dining room. Bobby tried to get on the table, but as he was on the edge he fell, hitting his hand on the floor, but he did not cry.

Margaret, who cries every time she falls or hurts herself, looked at him amazed and said: "Bobby fell and he didn't cry."

Bobby answered with a sober face: "Big mans don't cry." L. C. H.

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A teacher of the primary room of a public school became nervous over the restlessness and noise her pupils were making, and endeavored to stop it by suggesting: "Now, let's be quiet for just a moment, so quiet that we could hear a pin drop."

After a few minutes of peace in the room an impatient youngster in the rear of the room shouted: "Well, let 'er drop." M. W.