

Sunday Oregonian

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that no fact may be unimportant in an age which is concerned with the efficiency of the machine. So, too, Kekule when he dreamed out the benzene puzzle unlocked a labyrinthine series of formulas of immense significance to the future of the chemical industry.

Scientific research derives added interest from the circumstance that it deals with the future and so is a species of pure altruism. Constant progress in this field in an age that is otherwise not without its discouraging aspects is one answer to the forebodings of the pessimists who fear that the world is going to the dogs.

THE POISON NEEDLE MYTH

The vitality of a crowd hysteria is illustrated by the panic into which Paris has been thrown by reports that a "poison needle" wielder is busy again. At the present rate of progress it will take but a few years for this often-exploited fallacy to encircle the globe.

Scientists vainly assure their public that there is no known poison capable of being so casually administered which will cause the effect described; the world loves its mystery and it will not be happy without it. Fortunately the authorities are able to keep their heads.

RADIO WEEK

The call to observe "Radio week" but adds another to the list of supererogatory demands, yet it serves to remind us that the thing we think of when "radio" is mentioned has been in existence hardly a year.

THRIFT CLUBS

That the so-called Christmas clubs, organized largely through the agency of banks and designed to help the citizen accumulate a fund for his Christmas gifts, should have succeeded beyond the expectations of their founders will not be surprising to one who knows anything whatever of the psychology of saving.

WHEREAS IT IS

Whereas it is but a few years since people were wondering whether the English sparrow would take possession of our American woods and dales, crowding out more desirable bird species by his aggressive self-confidence and his undoubted capacity for taking care of himself in a pinch, news now comes from the department of agriculture at Washington that the evil is on the verge of abating itself.

THE PURPOSE OF SUCH SPECIAL INSTRUCTION

Such were the times of the "flight" of the sparrow, a phenomenon that has been attributed to the uses of motion picture actors nowadays. On the eastern trip one rider missed his way in the snow of a canyon for four hours.

philosopher will surmise that it may all be part of the plan to keep him himself in his place. Not the sparrow per se, but too much of a good thing, the sparrow, that he has become. Our fondness for the little fellow will increase with the years that show him to be numbered among the now vanishing tribes.

MEN OF THE COAST GUARD

A major disadvantage under which the men of the United States coast guard, who just now have good reason to be dissatisfied with their lot, labor in getting their cause before the public is the remoteness of their employment from contact with the everyday citizen.

GRADING PUPILS

Dr. S. C. Kohls, psychologist of the Portland court of domestic relations, presents the crux of the very latest problem in education in an article in the current bulletin of the Portland Grade Teachers' association in which he summarizes the theories of those who deny that standardization of the method and substance of teaching, without reference to the capacity of the pupil to acquire knowledge, is desirable.

DAYS THAT ARE GONE FOREVER

The most that can be expected from the pending project to revive the old pony express, designed as a means of invoking interest in a memorial to Mark Twain, will be a feeble and futile simulation of the real thing.

A NUISANCE ABATING ITSELF

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THE POLARIS RECALIBRATION

A French recalibration characterized the Polaris administration as a "year of futile threats, vague promises and barren accomplishments." What a lot of good platform material he is letting run to waste!

THE NEIGHBORHOOD BUTCHER

The neighborhood butcher and an irate customer were arguing over the merits of the holiday turkey. "And when I order another turkey from you don't send me any of those airplane birds," the householder roared.

THE NIGHT IS DARK

The night is dark and there may be steep untreaded paths awaiting me. But e'er a voice assures within—Tells me to hope, to strive and win!

MARY HAD A LITTLE GOAT

Mary had a little goat, That had a perfect pelt, And everywhere that Mary went, That goat was close at hand.

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then returned, making a record of a round trip of 322 miles without stopping except to change horses and to take his meals. Another rider's performance of 118 miles in eight hours and ten minutes with eleven changes of mounts long stood as a record hardly likely to be excelled now.

THE LISTENING POST

SENECA FOUTS was passing Third and Washington streets and passed a boy's supply of paper from Blind Bill, the newsboy. Bill recognized his voice and stopped him, holding out a big coin in his hand.

LOVES DELIRIUM

All through the long, dreary months of the winter, Visions and thoughts of you kept me enthralled; Then when I saw you in fancy, yearningly I had waited for you.

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Old Year: New Year.

We met as strangers always meet, Old Year, as you came in, Your ways were pleasing and replete.

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