

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

A man should not always be judged by the enemies he makes.

There are failures in every business. Even burglars make mistakes.

The comet's tail may look like the end of the world to some nervous people.

It is a rare thing to find a man complaining about the price of tobacco.

The general belief is that the middleman and the cold storage king are most to blame.

Few husbands would care to have their wives talk more than three or four languages.

Women are generally supposed to do a lot of talking, but the wives of college professors never get half a chance.

Economy is a great thing. By saving its money the sugar trust had \$600,000 ready to pay back to the government.

"I couldn't help it," explained the New York boy who married three women. And thus lovely woman receives another compliment.

Two thousand five hundred sailors in the American navy cannot swim. We suppose it isn't necessary to advise them not to rock the boat.

Activity in the suffrage movement would be a good thing for many a wife. It would take her mind off her husband and other worries.

Professor Percival Lowell says he has positive proof that there is life on Mars. It is much easier to accept his word than to prove that he is wrong.

Much has been said about the Massachusetts woman who can talk fifty-four languages, but if she isn't married what good does her knowledge do her?

If there are no canals on Mars there ought to be, if for no other reason than to vindicate Prof. Lowell, who has labored hard to establish them there.

Peary has just received another medal. It will be necessary pretty soon for him to employ a dummy to help him wear his medals when he wishes to exhibit them all at one time.

Dr. Jean M. Charcot, a French explorer, reports that he has discovered new land in the antarctic region. Copenhagen will want to see a sample of it before hanging a rose wreath upon Charcot.

An acrobat at Kansas City a few evenings ago succeeded in turning a double back somersault from the ground, a feat that had never before been accomplished. We hope he has his documents ready and in a properly framed condition for the University of Copenhagen if it shall decide to call for them.

In these days of educational fads and reforms the teaching of spelling has a less prominent place in the schools than it deserves to occupy. Now the State of North Dakota, through its department of education, is arranging for a series of spelling matches in the district schools all over the state. Prizes are offered, and there are to be matches between different schools to stimulate the interest. The series will close with a final state championship contest.

One of the greatest triumphs in the history of engineering is the completion of the tunnel, or series of tunnels, through the Andes, which allows direct travel across South America from Buenos Aires to Valparaiso. Hitherto, winter travelers went by way of the Strait of Magellan, a rough sea voyage. The tunnel has been in process of construction for many years, and twice the work has been abandoned in despair. A New York syndicate solved the problem at last, and it is announced that trains will be running early in the coming summer. There are three tunnels, with an aggregate length of eleven miles. The highest station on the line is about 10,500 feet above sea level. The third of the tunnels is described as screw-shaped, and drops 2,700 feet in a distance of 27,000 feet. The total cost of the work is about twelve million dollars.

What does it matter how old a man is or what the age of a woman is if they wish to marry? What have years to do with love and that felicity that comes from the tying of the nuptial knot? Dr. Johnson's wife was more than twenty years his senior, and Shakespeare's spouse was old enough to be his mother. They were

happy, and why should not those who follow their example in these days also find conjugal joys? It is getting to be the fashion nowadays, this mating of December and May. Recently a wealthy woman of Hartford made plans for marrying a schoolboy at New Haven. She was about 70 and he about 20, and her children and grandchildren, when they heard about it, went to the courts and said she was crazy. But the judges knew otherwise, and set her free and let her continue mistress of her own fortune. Then there was the lady of a noted American family who lived in her mansion on the Hudson. For sixty-eight years she had lived alone, and then she married her hostler, aged 24. What of that? Shall a woman who has lived nearly threescore years and ten and still is an old maid continue so until her death?

From the earliest days a large part of man's food supply has been drawn from the depths of the ocean. The Scriptures abound in references to the use of fish as food, from the opening chapter of Genesis, where man is granted dominion over the fish of the sea, to the books of the New Testament, where the Saviour feeds the multitude on the fishes, and preaches to the fishermen, who drop their nets to follow Him. Fishing has always been a leading industry. The latest figures give the annual value of the world's fisheries at about four hundred million dollars—almost as much as the annual output of all the gold mines.

The United States leads, with sixty-three millions, Great Britain comes next, with about fifty-five millions, and Japan third, with about forty millions. In this country seven thousand vessels and two hundred and twenty thousand men are employed in fishing, and their contribution to the value of our food supply is nearly as much as that of all the orchards in the land. Not many years ago the consumption of ocean fish was limited to those living on a narrow strip along the coast. Now, as a result of fast transportation and the perfection of refrigeration, every section of the interior is promptly supplied with fish from each of the great oceans. This has meant a steadily widening market for fish, a greater demand and a higher price. The system of cold storage—the retention of temporary oversupplies—has had a tendency in the same direction. Nevertheless, fish remains a relatively cheap article of food, as well as one of the most nutritious. There is little danger that the people as a whole will eat too much fish. Although the supply seems inexhaustible, the government is wisely doing what can be done in the way of propagation and conservation.

MEN "EASY" FOR SHOE CLERK.

No Trouble to "Fool" Them by Changing Size Marks on Shoes.

A Broadway shoe dealer, expounding a pet theory, offers the following proof that man's conception of happiness and contentment depends largely on the state of his imagination.

"A short time ago," he explained, according to the New York Morning Telegraph, "one of my best customers came in and asked for a pair of shoes. It happened that I had in stock at the time the exact thing the customer called for, and, everything considered, it looked as if I would make a quick sale. However, despite the fact that to me the style and fit of the shoes were perfect, the customer, upon standing up, declared that they were too tight and that he wanted the same thing a half size larger.

"Now I was absolutely convinced that the shoes, which were size 8, were large enough, and not having on hand a pair of 8½, I decided to test a theory of mine regarding the relation of the imagination to contentment. Taking the shoes to the rear of the store, I picked up a stamp and next to the figure 8 affixed the fraction one-half. Returning to the prospective purchaser with the identical pair of shoes that he had had on, I quickly laced them up for the second time and asked him how 'that pair' felt. After a few steps up and down the room he exclaimed, immensely pleased:

"Now, these feel something like it; they're just the thing."

"And," supplemented the shoe man, "can you imagine selling a woman a pair of shoes by convincing her that they were a size larger than they really were?"

Her Inspiration.

The cow had just jumped over the moon.

"Why not, with beef and milk up in price?" she demanded.

Herewith she continued going higher.—Harper's Bazar.

The Real Ruler.

Mrs. Knicker—The kaiser will be godfather to the eighth child of any German parents.

Mrs. Bocker—What's the use, if the cook will only stay with two in the family?—Harper's Bazar.

Still, a man never seems anxious to marry a woman who isn't afraid of a mouse.

The compliments you receive by fishing for them don't count.



Road Partridge.

Clean and open the bird as you would any fowl, lay in strong salt water three or four hours, not more; if not then ready to use put away on ice. Make a dressing of bread crumbs, butter, salt and pepper and to each bird allow four or five oysters in the stuffing. Replace in a pan and put over them some butter, pepper and enough water to make a gravy; sift a little flour over all. Lay a small piece of pickled pork on each breast, baste frequently and bake forty-five minutes in a good oven. Serve with currant jelly.

Mock Turtle Soup.

This soup is favored by those who prefer thick soup. The basis is a stock prepared from the hind shins of beef and knuckles of veal, thickened with browned flour and flavored with a blend of spices, herbs and sherry. To the stock is added cubes of meat cut from parboiled calves' heads and simmered until tender. Mock turtle soup should be very smooth and seasoned to suit the taste of the consumer.

Victoria Chicken.

Make a sauce of one-fourth cup of butter, one-fourth cup of flour and one cup chicken stock. To this add a cup mushrooms (may be omitted), one cup drained peas, one-half cup tomato pulp and a cup and a half of chicken, cut into small pieces with scissors. Add what seasoning is necessary. Serve on toast or in croutards. The bits of turkey, goose or chicken picked from the bones will do for this nicely.

Escalloped Cabbage.

Chop a head of cabbage quite fine, and scald. Melt two tablespoons of butter in a saucepan and smooth with two of flour, a dash of cayenne. Add two tablespoons of melted butter and the juice of half a lemon. Pour into a buttered dish and bake in a slow oven until firm. Serve hot with white sauce.

Suet Paste.

One pound of sifted flour, one teaspoonful of salt, six ounces of beef suet, one cupful of ice water. Remove all the fibers from the suet and chop it fine. Rub in the flour and salt with the hands. Then add enough water to make a soft dough. Roll out. To be used for meat pies and apple dumplings.

Cauliflower Fritters.

Break up a boiled head of cauliflower and dip each sprig in slightly warm bechamel sauce and lay on a dish to cool. Then dip each one in a rich egg fritter batter, and fry until a delicate brown. Drain on brown paper, lay on a hot dish and garnish with fried parsley.

Prune, Peach or Plum Cream Pie.

One cup of cooked, strained fruit, 1 cup sugar, 2 beaten eggs yolks, 1 cup cream. Mix, add beaten whites, pineapple flavor. Bake in one crust. Cover with meringue or whipped cream and pineapple grated over.

Ice Cream Made Without Eggs.

Two quarts milk, one pint cream, one-third box of gelatin, sugar and flavor to taste. More cream and less milk makes it still better. Heat a little of the milk to dissolve the gelatin in.

Red Currant Ice.

Soak one tablespoonful gelatine in cold water to cover. When soft dissolve in one cup boiling water. Mix with it 2 more cups water, 2 cups sugar, 2 cups red currant juice and the pulce of a lemon. Freeze.

Hints About the Home.

Windows may be kept from icing by rubbing glass with a sponge dipped in alcohol.

For a change try putting a dozen chopped raisins in a boiled frosting, adding them just before spreading on the cake.

If the lamp wick moves up and down with difficulty, a simple remedy is to pull out a few threads at either side of the wick.

Boiled rice, prepared like macaroni, with grated cheese and baked in the oven, makes a very nice dish for dinner or relish for tea.

Paraffin used on the tops of preserve glasses can be saved until the next season by washing in cold water and putting in a tin box with an airtight lid.

Carpets should be beaten on the wrong side first and then, more gently, on the right. Never put a carpet down on a damp floor, for this often results in the carpet becoming mildewed.

To remove the bitter taste from cooked cranberries before taking from the fire add a pinch of baking soda. Then skim off the green scum, put through a sieve and it is ready for use.

GREATEST WOMAN SCIENTIST.

Mme. Curie Shares with Most Savants Faculty of Abstraction.

In a quiet little house in Paris, screened from the outer world by a high wall, lives Mme. Curie, co-discoverer with her late husband of radium. Other women who might be inclined to envy this most wonderful of feminine scientists are disarmed by her extreme modesty. When an admirer belabors her with compliments upon her achievements she smiles almost in astonishment and shrugs her shoulders as if she had done little to make a fuss about.

When, upon the death of her husband, she was appointed to a chair at the Sorbonne, the great seat of learning in Paris, it was decided by several women to present her with a testimonial. The occasion demanded it (so it was thought), for was not Mme. Curie the first woman who had ever achieved such an honor?

The scientist's reply, however, spoiled everything. She said quietly: "It would be contrary to my husband's ideas and certainly to my own." So her feminine admirers departed without leaving their testimonial behind them.

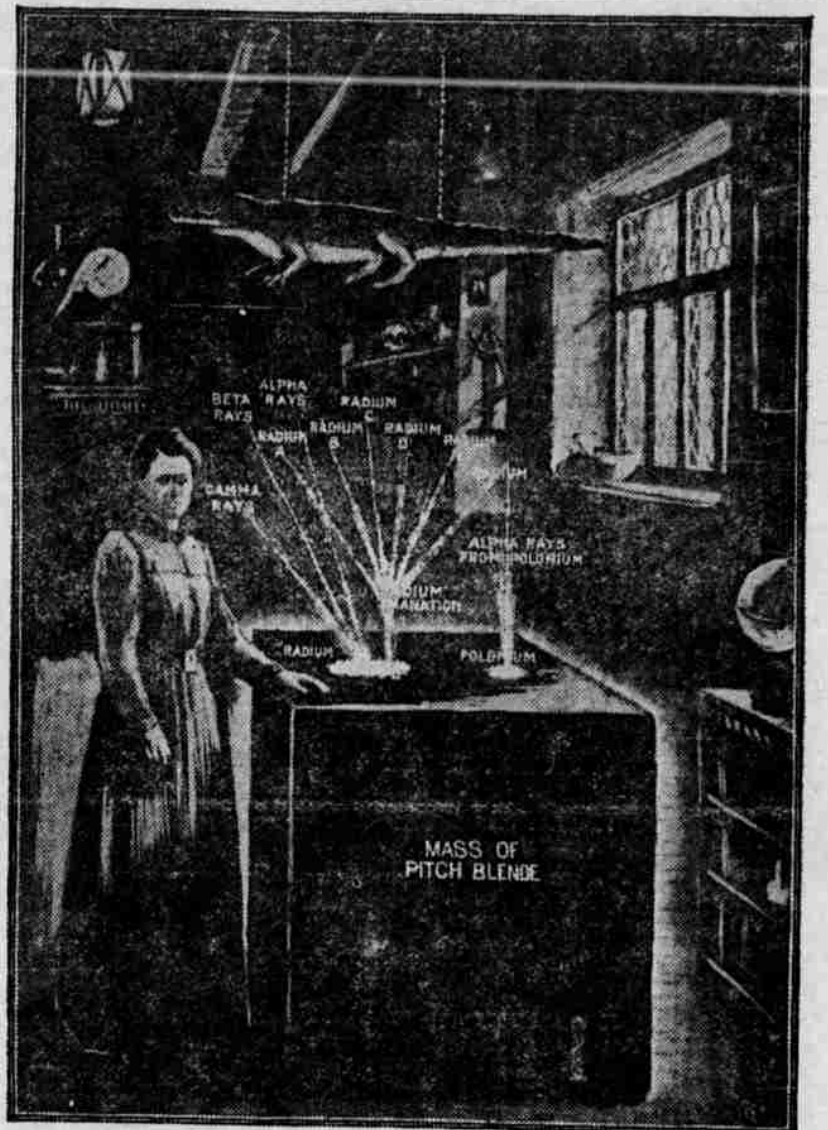
Yet, despite her modesty, it is known that she was more than a mere assistant to her husband. It is, indeed, claimed that she herself was the origi-

the two years of military service. Those who have contributed for more than ten years and less than thirty will be entitled to a reduced pension. Existing friendly societies which may be taken into the scheme will be authorized to collect old-age contributions from their members. They will receive from the State a contribution of 30 cents a head for sickness and insurance, plus an additional sum to cover expenses.

The working classes in France are estimated to number 11,000,000. The government has agreed with the opposition so far as to restrict the principle of compulsory contribution to town and rural wage earners, otherwise workmen in the ordinary sense of this term, and to make contribution optional to the large class of small farmers, petty land owners and part-profit cultivators (metayers), all of whom are laborers in reality. If they do not contribute they cannot benefit by the pensions scheme. These rural classes are computed at 6,000,000 in number.

Forty years hence, when the scheme is in full operation, the pensioners will have \$83 a year. They will start the year after the bill is passed with \$20.40 a year, the pension to rise gradually during the interval, a correspondent of the New York Sun says.

The chief newspapers on the government side predict that early in April the bill will become law, and



MADAME CURIE AND HER DISCOVERIES.

nator of the radium discoveries. The best testimonial to her abilities came from Prof. Curie himself when he was offered the decoration of the Cross of the Legion of Honor and refused it because the same decoration was not offered to his wife.

She shares with most savants that faculty of abstraction that is so valuable to those engaged in scientific work. When she is employed upon a difficult piece of research she hears nothing, sees nothing and is unmoved by anything that is not directly concerned with her investigations. It is said that once when in the middle of an absorbing experiment a servant ran into the laboratory, screaming loudly: "Madame, madame, I have swallowed a pin!" "There, there, don't cry," said Mme. Curie, soothingly, "there is another that you may have."

Mme. Curie has a sister who is a notable doctor of medicine in Austria, and as an instance of heredity it may be said that the famous scientist believes that her little daughter shows promise of even more brilliant scientific powers than herself. She is training the child with the intention of developing these talents to the utmost.

FRANCE'S OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

Act Which Probably Will Pass Follows German Lines.

The French old-age pensions scheme, the bill for which has just passed its first reading in the Senate, follows the Prussian rather than the English measure. As in Prussia, it is contributory and compulsory, workmen and employers contributing an equal amount annually.

Men are to pay \$1.80, women \$1.20 and persons under 18 90 cents yearly until their 65th year, when they will become entitled to a pension, which will be paid from the total contributions plus the employers' quota and a sum of \$12 paid by the State. The conditions for receiving the full pension are that the worker shall have contributed to the fund for thirty years, including in the case of men

will be regarded as the greatest achievement of the third republic, but a great many prominent politicians are not so optimistic. Many Senators have voted for the second reading of the bill for no other reason than getting a better opportunity of making a more systematic and concentrated attack on the compulsory clauses.

Has Pins Worth \$25,000.

Led on by a love for rare and unique scarf pins, A. M. Brinckle, known throughout the country as the "scarf-pin man," arrived in Des Moines to continue his search for new designs to add to his collection, the Evening Tribune of that city says.

During the years of travel in his capacity as salesman for a Connecticut cut-glass concern Mr. Brinckle has gathered together the largest assortment of rare and beautiful scarf pins in the world. The collection contains 1,016 pins and is valued at \$25,000.

Jewelers in all large cities know of Mr. Brinckle because of his fad. He is referred to in most localities as the "scarf-pin man" because of the fact that he wears so many unique pins. He declares that only once during the last fifteen years have any of his customers seen him wearing the same scarf pin. He also has a collection of 300 scarfs.

Gathering scarf pins is a hobby with Mr. Brinckle. Although unusual and costly, it has proved to be intensely interesting. A large number of the settings have a history, which the owner, with enthusiastic pride, loves to relate. The collection was recently placed on exhibition at Tiffany's in New York, where many admiring collectors offered immense sums for the rarest specimens.

The women are carrying pocket-books this spring almost as large as valises. It's a bad idea; a woman always looks funny carrying a valise.

Health, honesty, horse sense and hard work is a combination you can't down; if your rival has these qualities, form a trust with him.