

KEYS—THEIR USE AND ABUSE.

Concerning the Inventions of Locksmiths and the Disadvantages of Being Locked Out.

The key is an acknowledgment of man's depravity. If every man respected his neighbor's goods and privacy, we should not be burdened with carrying keys, in bags or pockets, hunting for them in a panic, and frequently losing or mislaying them. We have the care of a door key, an office key, a trunk key; a safety-box key (if we are coupon-cutters); our locker key, if we are sports, and automobile and garage keys, if we own those luxuries. Keys naturally multiply with our outward prosperity. Diogenes, living in a tub, was a happy man, as far as the responsibility of keys went, and although some people might prefer more roomy apartments for a permanency, at least Diogenes wasn't obliged to turn his toga pockets inside out in a vain attempt to locate his key—when returning to the tub after a brief sojourn at the club.

Key-rings, upon which you can concentrate your responsibilities, are sometimes desirable; on the other hand, if lost, the whole bunch must be replaced. I consider the mode of the public bath frequenter, that of wearing the bath-house key on a rubber ring around the neck, preferable to any other method. It absolutely cannot be lost, unless the bath is eaten by a shark.—Esther G. Babson, in Boston Transcript.

GOT MESSAGE FROM LIGHT

Famous Man of Letters Tells of Peculiar Effect Simple Happening Had on Schoolboy.

A friend of mine—an old painter, who went to school in the north of Scotland—described to me his experience. The domine had one morning been particularly drastic in his methods, and this led to great concentration of thought among the pupils, while at the same time it did not in the least alter the usual current of their ideas. My friend, for instance, busied himself as usual, observing form and color, only with a keener zest and, as I have said, a more concentrated purpose. It was a spring morning, and, for the first time that year, a ray of sunshine came into the room, making a square of yellow light on the dusty floor at his feet. It was only at that particular period of the year such a thing was possible; later on there would be too many leaves on the trees, and in winter the sun was not in that quarter of the heavens. My friend was an unhappy and anxious schoolboy, but the events of that morning and the nuances of the domine, combined with the sudden sunlight at his feet, made a new boy of him, and he looked at the square of brightness which stirred his heart. He resolved, as it were, his mystical message; and some time afterward, leaving school, he became a landscape painter.—John Butler Yeats.

More Than a Sign Post.

There was once a detective story written whose point lay in the manner in which a very familiar figure may escape observation. In the tale several persons swore no one had entered a certain building during a certain space of time. Afterward it was proved that the postman had visited the place at his accustomed time, but long habit had rendered him psychologically invisible to the witnesses.

So it is with the familiar figures upon our streets. How many times a day we may pass by the traffic cop, without perhaps realizing that he is something more than an animated sign post, until some act of courtesy awakens us to the fact that a "cop" is simply a man, and a gentleman at that. For, in spite of the many aggravations that must come during a day of directing traffic, most of these officers retain their good temper, and even go out of their way to assist or direct some passer-by.—Gaulth World Herald.

Water for House Plants.

Water is essential to the life of plants, whether they be in the open ground or in pots, for only in the form of solutions in water can the roots suck up the juices of the earth, and it is the water circulating through the channels of the trunk and branches that permits the exchanges between the leaves and the rest of the vegetable.

Plants in a house should not be watered at regular stated intervals; do the plants out-of-doors receive rain on Tuesdays and Saturdays? They should be watered whenever they need it. This is the only safe rule. And we can tell when they need it by feeling the earth in which they are growing; so long as this feels moist the plants do not need water.

"Blarney" Not Out of Place.

Life at best pays back rather limited dividends, and knowing this, we should as we journey along life's thoroughfares, try, whenever the opportunity offers, to bring a smile to tired lips. Even though we must resort to a "bit of blarney" if we would accomplish this happy result, we certainly should do so. Such a course may dispense the person who prides herself on calling a spade a spade every time, but folks who approve of toting down, as it were, the sharp edges of life, will feel no twinges of conscience for playing such a role, for there is all the difference in the world between base flattery and true and merited approval.—Exchange.

Edinburgh Landmark Gone.

An interesting bit of old Edinburgh, dating back about 1600, has been burned. The destroyed building, which consisted of a single story and attic, was one of the landmarks of the Holyrood area. It was the old Yew Tree tavern, and stood inside the bounds of the Holyrood sanctuary for debtors, within which, in days of yore, the fugitive was free from the attentions of his creditors.

Bananas.

The banana is a perennial ceous plant, growing from year from an underground with a stem or stalk a few feet high above the ground. It has drooping leaves, like fruit trees, and the fruit stalks protrude from the ground. At the end of the stalk, the fruit hangs down to the ground and grows in bunches.

Jade Favorite Gem in China.

Light green jade is the favorite gem of China, and it is difficult to get the stone in uncut form even in that country. Sometimes a rich Chinaman's estate will consist in part of a dump of jade. Sometimes it can be obtained in pounds. But even the leading jewelers of Hongkong usually obtain it in cut form.

Put it in The Bulletin.

HIGH SCHOOL EDITORIAL.

(Continued from Page 3.)

a Boston school induced his 89 pupils to select six persons each to comment upon their speech. Those critics proved to be parents, companions and experts. The different reports were studied as they came in.

In trying to form a standard, we should not forget what the authorities tell us. They tell us that we are not ready for an absolute standard, and unless we keep in mind our larger ideal, the movement may prove destructive rather than constructive.

Join the Red Cross for 1920. All you need is a heart and a dollar.



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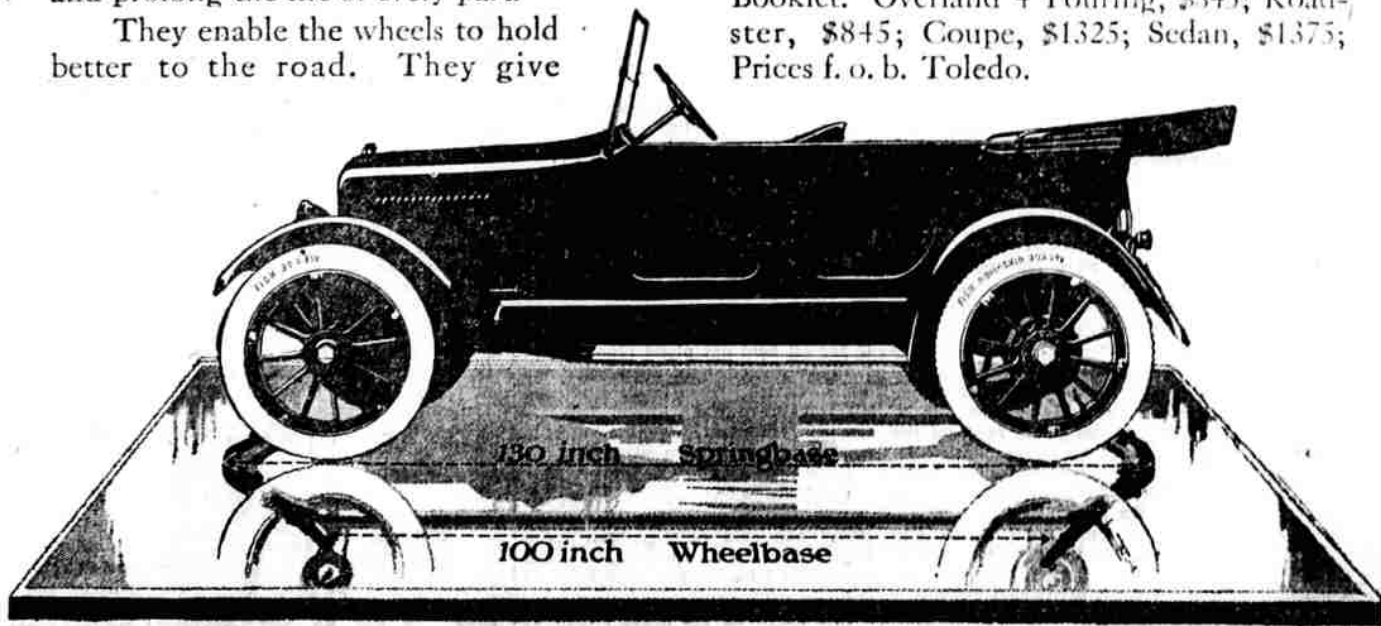
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