

Dead Mail Bane of Post Office

Undeliverable Matter Fills Many Bags Daily Despite Repeated Warnings.

New York.—For six years the Post Office department has carried on a campaign to induce the public to direct mail legibly to the street and number of its destination, and to place a return address on all letters and parcels. Mail bearing incomplete or illegible addresses constitutes one of the main difficulties the postoffice encounters in rendering service.

Since the inauguration of the campaign, six years ago, the general postal receipts have increased approximately 44 per cent, while the receipts of the dead letter office (accruing from the three-cent fee charged for returning mail to senders) have increased only 33 1/3 per cent. This indicates that the department has made progress in its efforts to induce greater care on the part of the public. The dead letter office acts as a kind of barometer, registering the response of mailers to the requests of the post office.

According to postal records the chief offenders against the rule regarding return addresses are business firms that advertise by circulars. There seems to be a belief among circularizers that a return address on a letter of this type amounts to a one-way ticket to the waste basket. It is the opinion of the post office that a letter arriving by first-class mail will be opened regardless of the return address printed on it. It is observed also that the firms sending out advertising material have no way of checking their mailing lists unless their undelivered mail is returned.

Besides business mail of this variety, parcels and private letters go in swarms to the dead letter office.

Efforts to Reduce Carelessness.
This office was established in 1825, but prior to 1890 no complete record was kept of its transactions. Such statistics as are available show that in 1830 some 80,000 letters were turned over. In 1850, when the senate requested that the postmaster general's annual report should include a statement of the number of dead letters received, the number reported was 2,500,000. From that time, various measures, including legislation, were used to decrease the amount of undeliverable mail.

In 1862 congress authorized the post office to return dead letters whenever the address of senders could be obtained. A charge of three cents was required to be made for the return of ordinary mail and six cents for letters containing anything of value. The amount of revenue thus collected in one year amounted to \$46,645.92, or \$20,000 more than the cost of the labor involved.

The introduction of the money order system in 1864 was due largely to the fact that much money had been found in unclaimed letters. The following year the government went into the business of making stamped envelopes imprinted with the address of the sender and a request for return. Despite these efforts the receipts of undeliverable mail increased, but this may have been owing in part to the general increase in the volume of mail. In 1896 the three-cent fee was discontinued, and it was not resumed until 1920. In the last five years

these fees have averaged \$30,000 yearly.

The number of dead letters received and disposed of in the past fiscal year totaled 24,036,928, an increase of more than 2,000,000 over the preceding year. Of these more than 3,000,000 were ultimately delivered. Some 80,000 containing valuables are still held awaiting proof of ownership. Out of 330,000 parcels handled last year 161,000 were delivered, 52,000 were destroyed as valueless or dangerous to other mail matter and 321,000 were filed for disposal at public auction.

Twelve Bags Full Daily.
Visitors to the dead letter office exhibits in New York city often wonder at the carelessness of senders. The undeliverable mail for one day in New York and the New England states fills twelve bags.

The dead letters are opened by machine and distributed to a group of clerks called selectors, whose duty it is rapidly to inspect the contents for clues. Those that contain neither return addresses nor anything of intrinsic value are sold as waste paper. Those containing enclosures are passed on to clerks who record the contents and data for use in case the sender later submits a claim. Letters containing address information are given to clerks who enclose them in official envelopes and dispatch them to the indicated address.

The long experience of clerks saves many a letter from the waste basket. One freak address that is still fresh in the memories of the officials of the New York dead letter office reads as follows:

HILL,
R.
Mass.

The correct reading, it was at length decided, is:

"R. Underhill, Andover, Mass."
Some weeks ago a \$500 bill arrived at the New York post office in a dead letter. When the letter was opened the addresses of both sender and addressee were found within and the letter was delivered. Many dead letters come from foreign countries. These almost invariably bear the name of a city, sometimes a street number, without indicating the state. Letters addressed to Slippery Rock, U. S. A.; Phoenicia, America; Broadway, Italian America; Suet Fallers (for Sioux Falls); Preckness Dairy, U. S. A.; Grotto Ave, Pete, B. Y. (for Providence, R. I.); Barber Shop, New York, and a letter with four different addresses on its face—all these came to the selector's desk on the same day recently. A postcard was addressed: "Repairing and Refinishing Neatly Done, North America." Frequently foreigners mistake the advertising on a postcard for the address; sometimes they will copy down every bit of printed matter on a card except the address.

Two Liberty Loan bonds, uncanceled and therefore as good as cash, were found a few weeks ago in inadequately addressed envelopes. One of the bonds was for \$1,000 and the other for \$500.

Santa Claus' Address Known.
Letters to Santa Claus begin to arrive early; but mail to this elusive personage presents no serious problem. Letters to Santa Claus are all deliverable. Around Christmas time the post office receives many requests from charitable organizations and

NEW POLICE WEAPON



Capt. Ralph Micelli of the New York police with the tear gas billy which is the latest weapon provided for the guardians of the peace in the metropolis.

from individuals asking that Santa Claus communications be forwarded to them. If the applicants can satisfy the post office that they mean to use the letters in the cause of charity they are permitted to have them. The Santa Claus association, devoted to the care of needy children, takes charge of many such missives each year.

Letters manifestly the product of idle hands are speedily disposed of. One of this sort arrived the other day. It was addressed to Mr. Nobody, Nowhere, U. S. A. It came from Berlin.

Texas Sneeze Club to Fight Cedar Trees

Austin, Texas.—Members of the Sniff-Snuffle-Sneeze club, more formally known as the Austin Hay Fever association, expect to lobby at the next session of the Texas legislature for a bill providing for destruction of cedar trees which exude pollen.

Cedars are numerous in the Texas capital, and every year at pollination time scores of victims are seized with the sneezy, weepy malady. The victims include former Gov. Miriam A. Ferguson and several members of the University of Texas faculty. Dr. H. W. Harper, dean of the graduate school, is president of the hay fever association, organized by about 100 sufferers who want legislative relief.

One futile attempt has been made to get remedial laws. A bill providing for the chopping down of all cedar trees which throw off pollen within a five-mile radius of Austin was introduced in the legislature, but it was ridiculed to death.

Try to Do Away With Skidding in Berlin

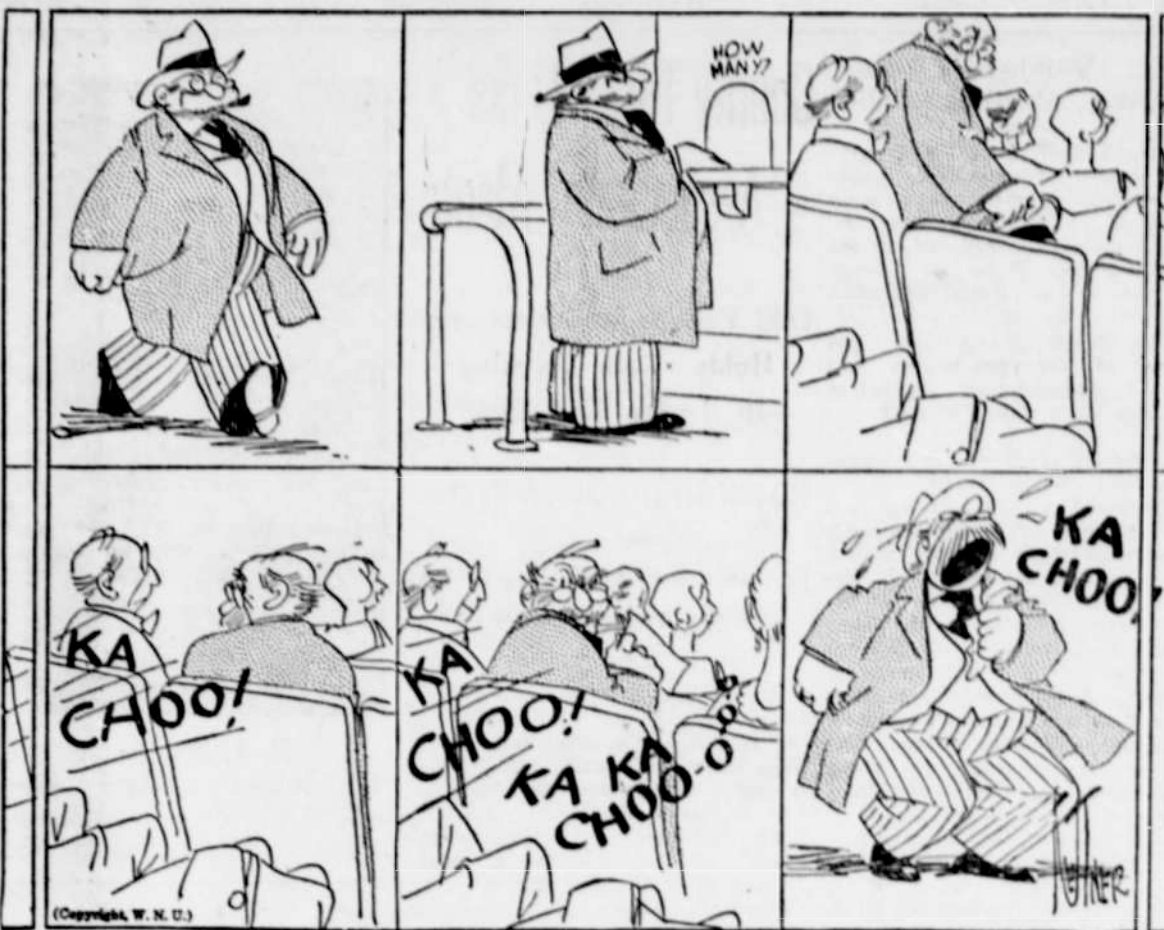
Berlin.—Municipal traffic experts, alarmed at the increasing number of street accidents, are seeking some method of eliminating skidding.

A new kind of antiskid device is being tried out on Berlin streets, a roller placed midway behind the back axle and operated by a lever from the driver's seat—by hand on light cars and by compressed air on heavy cars. On slippery ground the lever's release presses the roller down hard on the pavement.

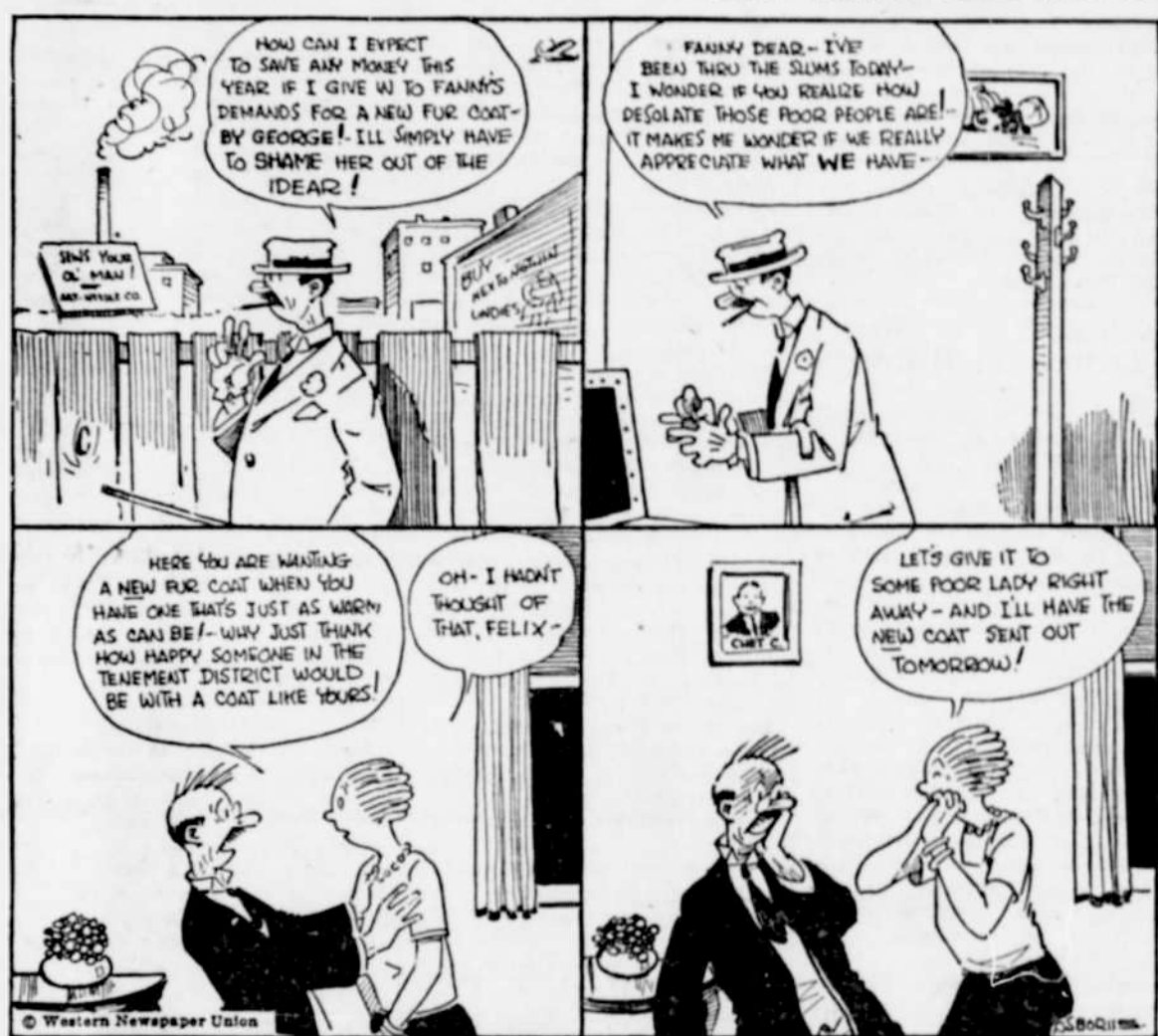
It is claimed that a car fitted with this roller cannot skid, nor did it on the slippery, wet road on which it was tried out.

OUR COMIC SECTION

Our Pet Peeve

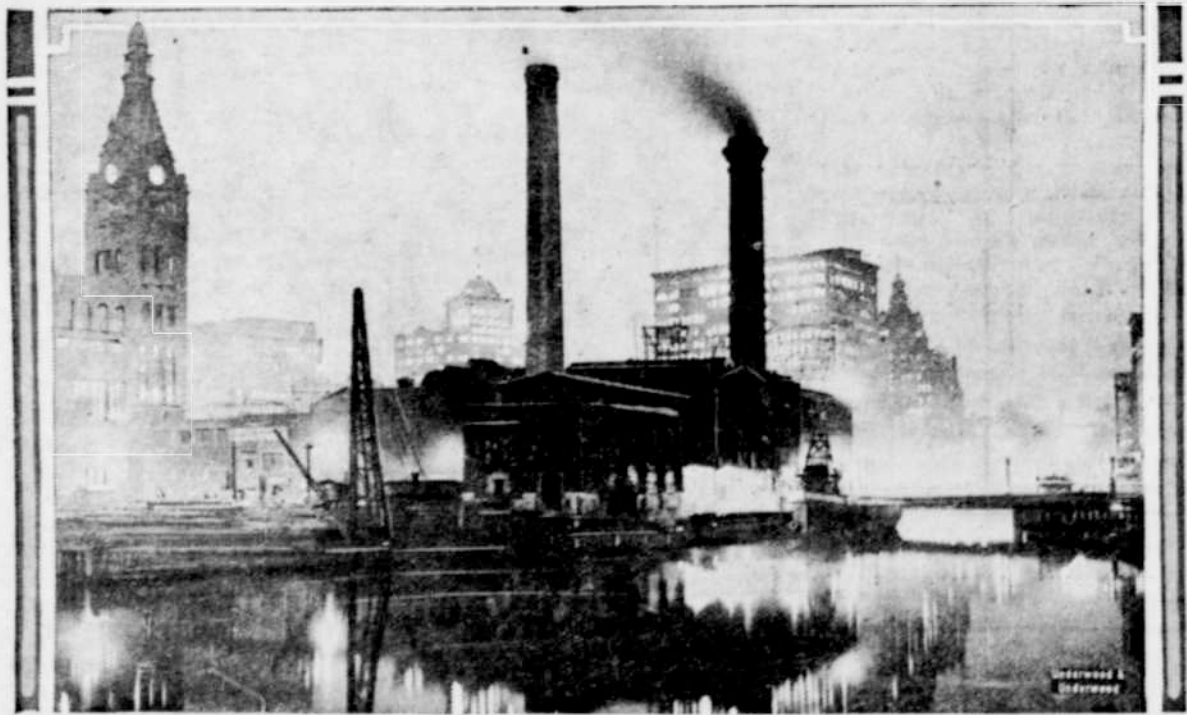


THE FEATHERHEADS



That "Shame" Stuff Is N. G.

Example of Municipal Illumination



Milwaukee, Wis., brilliantly lit up at night. At the left is the city hall, with its lofty tower and in the foreground is the Milwaukee river.

GOLD AT SEA BOTTOM NOW SOUGHT BY RADIO FINDER

New Device Is Expected to Locate Treasure Sunk by Old-Time Buccaneers.

Baton Rouge, La.—Treasure believed to have been sent to the bottom of the sea by pirates who roamed the Spanish Main centuries ago, and which has defied all efforts of treasure hunters, will be sought with a new radio device this summer.

G. O. Maher, Baton Rouge man who invented the "ground radio," with which he has unearthed a small fortune in buried treasure, has developed a similar machine for use in water and is authority for the announcement of the expedition, which plans to go to the southwestern coast of South America this summer.

A vessel manned with divers and fully equipped for the adventure will be used to search, Maher says. A Tennessee treasure hunter is with-

held in financing the expedition. The Spanish galleons sought are believed to have been sunk near the coast by pirates about 1700. One vessel alone is reported to contain a million dollars in gold bullion, which was being transported from Mexico to Spain at the time it was sunk in a battle with the buccaners.

Maps and charts believed to have been those of Sir Henry Morgan, the historic pirate chief, are in possession of the party, Maher says, and already have been used in another successful expedition into southern Panama and South America.

Maher first experimented with radio as a means of detecting buried treasure in 1918, but did not perfect his invention until 1922. Since then he has participated in several successful treasure hunts.

Both the ground and water machines are so constructed that when they

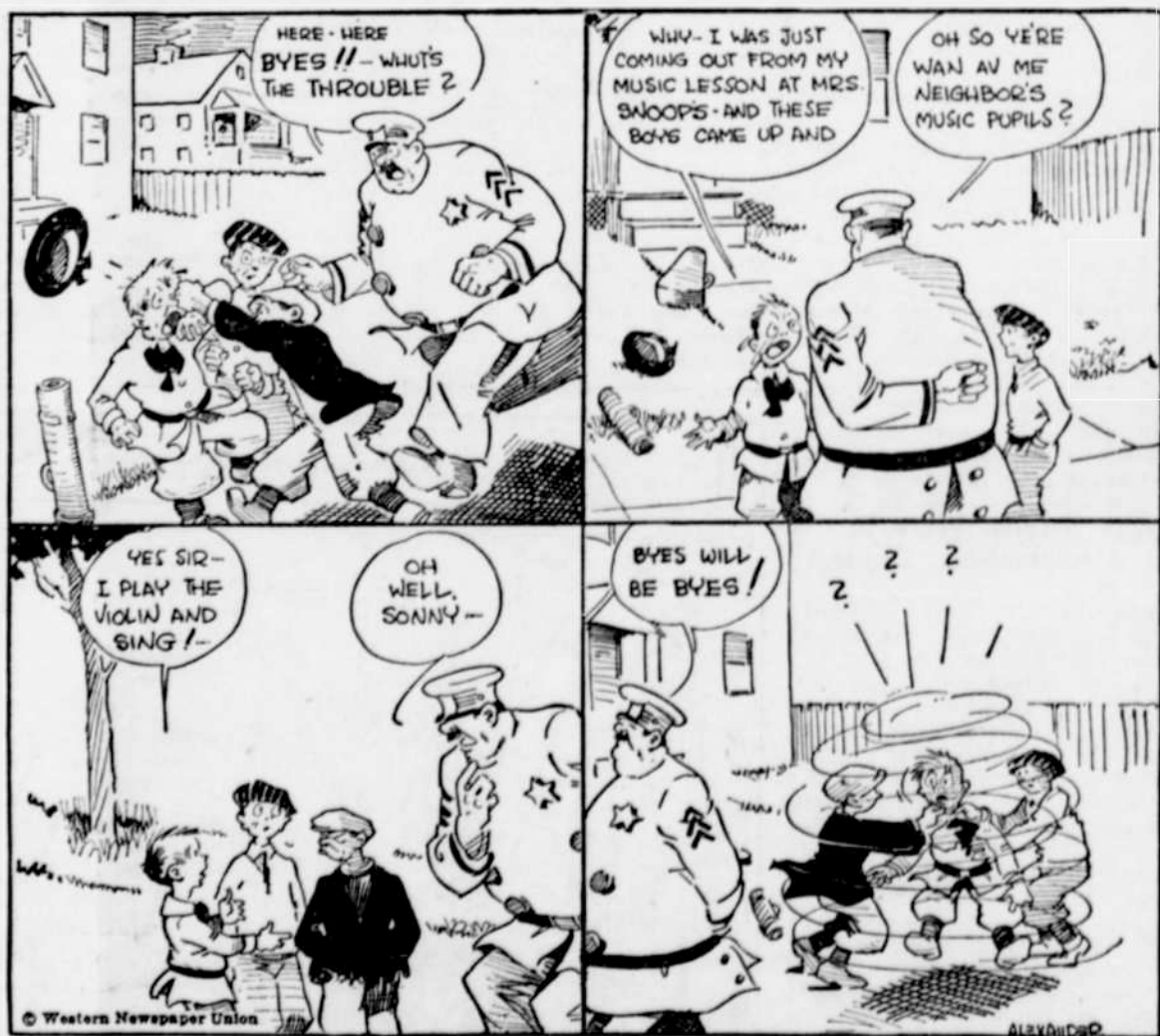
pass over a magnetic metal they produce in the ear phones a sound reaction characteristic of the several metals so accurately that the operator can tell the nature of the find.

The South American ground radio explorations uncovered treasures in the old castle of San Geronimo, near Nata; in the ruins of the Church of Porto Bella, destroyed in 1710, and at Cruces Train. Included in the finds are religious ornaments of gold and silver, a silver church bell, a large crown inlaid with gold, gold and silver vessels and ancient pistols. Other finds have been conducted by Maher in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, California and other states.

The Morgan charts, he says, are owned by a Tennessean, who claims to be a direct descendant of the pirate chief.

Mussolini Runs Second.
New Haven, Conn.—The second biggest living world figure, in the opinion of Yale seniors, is Mussolini. The middle name of the first is the same as that of a famous Roman emperor. He is a flyer.

FINNEY OF THE FORCE



DISAPPOINTED RADIO BUG



Bug—I've been sitting in front of this loudspeaker all day and I haven't heard anything yet.

Hard Jolt Coming

"How about shock absorbers?" asked the man who was buying a cheap car.
"We can put some on," said the salesman.
"No," said the purchaser. "But I'd like to have one sent to my wife in advance—she expects a limousine."

Would Visit Wife's Grave

A sloppily sentimental woman was married to an unromantic man. One evening she said to him, with a

sigh, "would you mourn for me if I were to die?"
"Oh, yes," he mumbled, "of course I would."
"And would you visit the cemetery often?" she pursued.
"Certainly," he said, with a little more animation, "I pass it on the way to the golf links, anyhow."

Not to Be Avoided

Responsibility walks hand in hand with capacity and power.—J. G. Hol-



THERE is nothing that has ever taken the place of Bayer Aspirin as an antidote for pain. Safe, or physicians wouldn't use it, and endorse its use by others. Sure, or several million users would have turned to something else. But get real Bayer Aspirin (at any drugstore) with Bayer on the box, and the word *genuine* printed in red!



KREMOLA SKIN BLEACH
Kremola is a skin bleach that makes your skin beautiful, clear, and free from blemishes. It is a perfect skin treatment for all skin types. Dr. G. H. Berry Co., 2018 Michigan Ave., Chicago.

Film Favorites Set

Fashions for World

That Paris is sending fashion experts to Hollywood in order to keep pace with the new styles instilled by the "movies" stars is pointed out by Campbell MacCulloch in an article in Liberty Magazine.

A woman, who is said to possess more intimate knowledge of Hollywood fashions than anyone else in the cinema capital, told MacCulloch, "Paris frequently trails Hollywood when it comes to modes, and the big French designers make few bones about it—among themselves. They're all in Hollywood to watch the style developments of the studios."

"New York may sniff," continues the writer, "London may put up its lorgnette in amused disdain, Paris may foam at the mouth; but deep down in their secret hearts they all know the 'movies' studios evolve more fashion novelties than all of them put together."

Hydraulic

Female Patient—What shall I do for water on the knee, doctor?
Doctor—Wear pumps.



Don't Neglect Your Kidneys!

You Can't Be Well When Kidneys Act Sluggishly.
Do you find yourself running down—always tired, nervous and depressed? Are you still and aching, subject to nagging backache, drowsy headaches and dizzy spells? Are kidney excretions scanty, too frequent or burning in passage? Too often this indicates sluggish kidneys and shouldn't be neglected.

Doan's Pills, a stimulant diuretic, increase the secretion of the kidneys and thus aid in the elimination of waste impurities. Doan's are endorsed everywhere. Ask your neighbor!

50,000 Users Endorse Doan's:

E. E. Horton, 1021 E. 18th St., N., Portland, Ore., says: "I have recommended Doan's Pills for many years. My kidneys were sluggish and the secretions were scant. I had dizzy spells and also suffered from backache and uneasiness after meals. Doan's Pills fixed me up in good shape and I felt free after taking them. I always have a supply in my home."

DOAN'S PILLS
60c
ASTIMULANT DIURETIC & KIDNEYS
Foster-Wilbur Co. Mfg. Chem. Buffalo, N.Y.

COMPLEXION IMPROVED

Carter's Little Liver Pills
Carter's Little Liver Pills move the bowels free from pain and uneasiness after effects. They relieve the system of constipation poisons which many times cause pimples. Remember they are a doctor's prescription and can be taken by the entire family. All Druggists 25c and 50c. Red Packets.

CARTER'S LIVER PILLS

Make \$25 to \$30 Weekly, working evenings at home. Full particulars for a stamped self-addressed envelope. Write Co., Cincinnati, O.

PARKER'S HAIR BALM
Restores Color and Beauty to Gray and Faded Hair. Cleanses the scalp and keeps the hair soft and fluffy. 50 cents by mail or at drugstore. Haeck Chemical Works, Patheague, N. Y.

FLORESTON SHAMPOO—Ideal for use in conjunction with Parker's Hair Balm. Makes the hair soft and fluffy. 50 cents by mail or at drugstore. Haeck Chemical Works, Patheague, N. Y.

Write for NEW CATALOG
of cowboy hats, riding apparel and riding equipment. All styles of Western hats, saddles, boots, etc. or money refunded.

STOCKMAN-FARMER SUPPLY CO.
1037 Lawrence St. Denver, Colo.

For Caked Udder and Sore Teats in Cows Try HANFORD'S Balm of Myrrh

All dealers are authorized to refund your money for the first bottle if not cured.