

The Observer

MORO, OREGON.

FRIDAY, Aug. 24, 1917

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VALUE OF BORIC ACID.

Its Use as a Disinfectant and as a Healing Remedy.

A physician writes to Farm and Fireside saying "that the very best disinfectant known to science does not seem to be known to some people at all."

"I allude to boric acid, or, as some people call it, boracic acid. It is exceedingly efficient, safe and economical. It is a white powder and makes the best dressing for wounds that modern doctors have ever discovered."

"In using peroxide or hydrogen it is always necessary to remember that while it is a disinfectant it is not a healing remedy at all, as it is acid in reaction and stimulating rather than healing to wounds."

"Boric acid is mild and safe in its action, promotes rapid healing of wounds, can be used as a dressing powder or dissolved in water as a cleansing solution. Boric acid in solution makes an excellent gargle for sore mouths or a lotion for sore eyes, and as it is not at all expensive a pound box of it should form part of the domestic supplies of every family."

"Always remember that boric acid is nonpoisonous in any ordinary quantity usually used, while bichloride of mercury and carbolic acid are exceedingly poisonous."

WHEN A WHALE BLOWS.

It is Steam, Not Water, the Cetacean Spouts into the Air.

Since a whale breathes air when it is below the surface the breath must be held, for if water should be taken into the lungs the animal would drown. Thus as soon as a cetacean comes to the surface its breath is expelled and a fresh supply inhaled before it again goes down.

The breath which has been held in the lungs for a considerable time under pressure is highly heated, and as it is forcibly expelled into the colder outside air it condenses, forming a column of steam. A similar effect may be produced by any person if on a frosty morning the breath is suddenly blown from the mouth.

That whales spout out of the blowholes water which has been taken in through the mouth is probably more widely believed than any other popular misconception. As a matter of fact, such a performance would be impossible, because a whale's nostrils do not open into the back of the mouth, as do those of a man, and the animal is not able to "breathe through its mouth," as an ordinary land mammal. —Roy Chapman Andrews in New York Independent.

STORY OF AN ORNAMENT.

The Lavalliere and the French Beauty Who First Wore It.

Do you know what a lavalliere is? You have seen many neck ornaments of more or less elaborate design suspended from chains that were thin or massive, which were sold as lavallieres. The traveler who knows his business will tell you that the large and highly ornate ornament made of hand wrought gold and studded with many gems, suspended from a thick chain and resting on the bare skin just above the low cut bodice, is a "stomacher," whereas the "lavalliere" is light and delicate in construction, is set with not more than three stones and is on a slender chain.

The heavy ornament was formerly worn on the front of the dress, the entire front part of a bodice, which extended down over the pit of the stomach, being called the stomacher. It was an English mode, whereas the lavalliere came into existence in France in 1660, having been designed at the suggestion of Louis XIV. as a gift to Françoise Louise de la Baume le Blanc, when she was made Duchess de la Valliere. Of all the king's favorites she was the most interesting. She became "queen of the petticoat court" when Louis was but twenty-eight years old and when Colbert and Louvois were making the French treasury and the French army the greatest and most formidable powers in Europe. At thirty she retired to a convent, where she spent her declining years writing that mournful essay, "Reflections on the Pit of God."—Exchange.

Coroners in England.

In early times the coroner in England was a revenue officer of the crown, and his business was to find out the criminals, extort their confessions and confiscate their goods to the crown. From records it appeared that King Alfred had a predilection for hanging his coroners because they did what was unjust.

The Great Conde.

The great military genius Conde was a precocious boy. At eight he understood Latin, and at eleven he gave out a treatise on rhetoric. When fourteen he had become thoroughly conversant with the principles of warfare and of all military tactics.

Disagreeable.

Aunt—I can tell at a glance what other people are thinking of me. Niece (absentmindedly)—How very disagreeable you are, auntie!

He who feedeth the hungry refresheth his own soul; thus saith wisdom.—Nietzsche

Wanted to Know.

Mrs. Newrich—I am determined that Clara's death shall pass off with great éclat. Newrich—What's the eclat, Maria—expense?—Boston Transcript.

Presently the present will have gone, never to be recalled.—Lucretius.

A Puzzling Case

Setting a Detective to Catch a Detective.

By ETHEL HOLMES

They say a woman can't keep a secret. I can testify to the fact that one woman I have known could keep a secret so well that she guided me, a detective with a reputation for shrewdness, to the detection of the real criminal, I having been set upon her to expose her. And this she did without revealing to me the fact that she knew him to be the man I should have been after.

One day I was directed by my chief to call upon the president of the Third National bank. I did so, and he said to me:

"Mr. Williams, we have a woman in our employ whom we suspect of embezzling our funds. The case is a singular one, and I must give it to you so far as it has already developed. There is a mystery connected with it which is very puzzling."

"We had in our employ a man whom we esteemed very highly. One day he failed to turn up at the usual time for the day's work. His wife was telephoned to know if he was ill. She replied that she was about to telephone the bank for information concerning him. He had not come home the day before nor during the night. She was terribly worried for fear that something had happened to him."

"The person among our employees who had last seen the man—Walter Pixley—said that Pixley had told him that he was going to see a man who owed him a hundred dollars. He had hurried away from the bank to catch his creditor at his office before the close of business hours. We learned from Mrs. Pixley the name of the debtor and sent a man to him for information concerning her husband. The party said that Pixley had visited his office in company with a veiled woman, who had waited for him without. The money had been paid him, and he had been seen to go away with the woman."

"This information communicated to Mrs. Pixley threw her into hysterics. "The next phase of the case was the report of one of our bookkeepers that funds were missing from the bank. My informant, Mr. Carter, told me that he had suspected Pixley for some time, and as soon as Pixley disappeared certain books kept by Pixley and had fallen upon proof that he was a defaulter. Carter is an expert accountant. I have always had great faith in him. He brought me his proofs of Pixley's guilt, which I examined, and, although Pixley had been doing all he could to render the accounts confusing, Carter convinced me that he was a defaulter."

"Now I come to the third act of the drama. Mrs. Pixley, who had undoubtedly been deserted by her husband for another woman, came to me and begged for some employment in the bank. She claimed that as a girl she had attended a commercial college and had studied bookkeeping. I pitied her and gave her the position made vacant by her husband."

"The end of my story and the point at which I wish you to take it up is a report this morning from Carter that more funds are being taken from the bank and that he suspects Mrs. Pixley of being the thief. You see from what I have told you that the case is a very complicated one. While I do not propose to lay out a course of action for you, I would suggest that you watch Mrs. Pixley. This of course you cannot do in the bank. You can only do it outside of the bank."

I confessed to the president that the matter did look rather puzzling. Had Pixley not deserted his wife for another woman I would have suspected that Mr. and Mrs. Pixley were in league to rob the bank. And yet, Pixley having done so, it did not seem likely that Mrs. Pixley would work on the same ground as he. I told the president that I would first find out something about Mrs. Pixley. When I had done that I would proceed to the next step in the premises.

I sent a party to Mrs. Pixley's home to sell her something, to draw her into conversation and to ask her at what institution she had studied bookkeeping. My emissary returned to me with the information that Mrs. Pixley had looked at the questioner concerned, but had given the Merton Business college as the place where she had received instruction. I at once went to the Merton college and asked to see a record of the students. The maiden name of Mrs. Pixley did not appear as having been a pupil there, and Mr. Merton declared that at the time Mrs. Pixley claimed to have been there he did not receive women students.

So far so good. I had nailed Mrs. Pixley in a lie. This tended to confirm me in considering her as guilty. But why she should steal from the same bank as her husband was a puzzle. The only reason I could think of was that she was enabled through sympathy to secure a place there, which she could not do elsewhere.

Another complication bothered me. Mrs. Pixley was reported by her fellow employees to be a pretty good bookkeeper. She must have received some training in this respect, but why should she have lied as to the school where she had studied?

I made no progress after nailing the lie upon Mrs. Pixley and at last determined to make her acquaintance and, by pretending as a friend, or to be smitten with her, to get the secret from her. Under the name of a bank examiner I became familiar with the employees, she among the number. I treated her with deference and sympathy. One day when she was leaving the bank after business hours I joined her and walked with her. Passing a

restaurant, I told her that I was going in to take a lonely dinner. Would she help me out with her company? She consented, and, selecting a table in a corner where we could converse without being overheard by others, we dined together.

I commiserated with her at having such a husband, expressing wonder that any man should desert so charming a woman. She seemed to feel very bitterly toward him, but, of course, if she were a thief as well as he, it might be a part of her game to feign this. I asked her if she suspected who was the woman with whom her husband had gone away, and she said she felt sure of the person. I got nothing out of her, but was impressed with the belief that there was a good deal in her, whether for good or for evil, though I did not feel that it was for evil. After dinner I escorted her to her home and left her at the door, at the same time receiving an invitation to call upon her.

Despite all my efforts I found nothing to implicate Mrs. Pixley, and there was no evidence at the bank to prove that she was purloining its funds, though the president had put Carter on the watch for this. After a time Carter said that, whatever was his way of taking money, it was so subtle that it was beyond his penetration. However, the cash on hand was constantly deficient, and Carter suggested that Mrs. Pixley be simply discharged without any reason being given her. The president communicated this to me, and I suggested that he put the matter off. I had become convinced that Mrs. Pixley had a secret, and I hoped in time she would let out something. To this he assented.

A couple of days after this I received a note from Mrs. Pixley, as follows: "Dear Mr. Detective—You are on the wrong track in shadowing me. Conceal yourself under the steps leading to the bank tomorrow night (or, rather, the next morning) at 1 o'clock and wait till I come."

I cannot tell why, but I was not so much astonished at this as I might be expected. I was certainly rejoiced, because I knew important developments were to come. At the appointed time I went to the bank and waited in the shadow of the steps. Ten minutes later Mrs. Pixley went up the steps. I joined her. She tapped at the door, and it was opened by the watchman. We went in behind the counters. Mrs. Pixley opened a safe, took out some heavy account book, which I laid on a high desk for her.

"How is it that you can come here at such a time and open this safe?" I asked her.

"The watchman is in my secret. I am allowed the combination of this safe, which contains only books." And here began the revelation. I am something of an accountant, this being one reason why I was put on the job. Mrs. Pixley spent two hours with me over a set of books, showing me that Carter had manipulated them to conceal certain peculations. And the entries bearing upon them were so dovetailed that had been kept by her husband as to make it appear that Pixley was the defaulter. And I could not see how Pixley could have shown that he was innocent in the matter. I looked aside at Mrs. Pixley and asked:

"How about the woman with whom your husband departed?"

"I was the veiled woman who went with him to collect the money owed him, but I didn't go away with him. One day he discovered how Mr. Carter, to conceal his peculations, had manipulated these books. He came home so broken down that I, fearing he would make a poor showing under an investigation, concocted this plan whereby I might have an opportunity to study out the problem for him. The watchman, Callahan, has been seen by my husband's friend and at the risk of his job has admitted me here at dead of night. I have had an expert accountant with me at times, and together we have unraveled this conspiracy and can make a showing such as I have given you."

"Where did you get your knowledge of bookkeeping?"

"I studied it after my husband left. The person you sent to find out about that caught me unawares. But at the time I did not know she came from you."

"Mrs. Pixley," I said admiringly, taking from under my coat my badge of office and handing it to her, "I resign in your favor. If I am worth \$10 a day as a detective you are worth a hundred."

As we left the bank I handed a twenty dollar bill to Callahan, but he declined to accept it. The next morning I called on the bank's president and was obliged to confess that my work had been done by the woman he had sent me to watch. Carter's books were examined without his knowledge. Pixley was summoned home by his wife and put in Carter's place. Mrs. Pixley was given \$8,500, and the stock of the bank, worth \$8,500, and her husband is as chipper as before he was lugubrious.

No, sir, I don't believe that a woman is any more liable to divulge a secret than a man especially when it becomes her interest to keep it. At any rate, such is my experience.

No Law's Delay Here.

In Perak, in the Malay peninsula, lawyers find no business, for a modified form of trial by ordeal decides all disputes. In place of the legal practitioner there is a native boy who is assigned to one or the other of the sides and is given a bamboo tube, in which is sealed the pleading of the person or party whom he represents. When all is ready two stakes are driven into the bed of a stream, and by aid of a bamboo pole the heads of the two boys are submerged at the same time. By grasping the stakes they are enabled to remain under water for quite awhile after their natural inclination would bring them to the surface, but at last one of them gives in and, releasing his hold of the stake, comes to the air. He is immediately seized, and the tube he holds is cast aside. The other lad is left ashore, his tube opened, and the document contained therein stands as the decision in the case.

The reason most of us don't do better work than we do is that we think what is just good enough is our best.—Detroit Free Press.

SUMMARY OF THE OREGON NEWS

The Rapid Reader's Review of Recent Reports Rewritten

To clean painted walls dissolve two ounces of borax in two quarts of water, add a teaspoonful of ammonia, and use half of this amount to a pall of water, using no soap.

A cloudburst in the Terebonne section, which includes rich irrigated lands, utterly destroyed the entire crop, and washed out a number of roads. Seven inches of rain fell in one hour, and huge hailstones aided in beating the crops into the ground.

Oregon apple men will be given an opportunity to get additional training in the newest and best methods of grading and packing apples to be held by the horticultural department of the Oregon Agricultural college, September 4 to 15.

Out of every 100 pupils attending the public schools of the state, approximately 95 never missed a day during the last school year, according to the annual reports of county school superintendents being filed in the office of J. A. Churchill, superintendent of public instruction.

Federal licenses to millers, elevators and warehousemen to transact business under the regulations of the Hoover food administration will be issued in a few days, according to information received by M. H. Houser, in charge of grain buying and distribution in the Pacific northwest.

During the month of June employees in Oregon who were insured under the workmen's compensation law labored an aggregate total of 1,235,975 work days. During that same month there were 17 fatal accidents and 1321 accidents all told, reported to the state industrial accident commission.

Unusual crop conditions this year are resulting in a shortage of straw and now the Oregon state hospital, which uses a large quantity of straw for stock feed and bedding, is paying \$8 a ton for baled straw. This is nearly three times as much as has been paid heretofore for straw.

James Tompkins of Gaston was mistaken for a deer by his hunting companion, John Miller, as he was returning to camp, and received a charge of buckshot over the heart at a distance of 84 feet, killing him instantly. The accident happened about ten miles west of Cherry Grove.

In the last six weeks eastern Multnomah county farmers have lost more than 100 animals from the same cause that caused the death of livestock in Klamath county, according to S. B. Hall, Multnomah county agriculturist. But the apparent poisoning, declares Mr. Hall, is a contagious blood poison, which is incurable in the advanced stages.

A bean crop of at least 50 per cent is assured in the Willamette valley, according to the estimates of the Salem Fruit company, which has contracts with bean growers throughout the valley. In some localities there will be hardly 25 per cent of what was expected a month ago, while again a number of growers report fine conditions.

W. B. Ayer, Oregon's newly appointed federal food commissioner, chosen by National Administrator Herbert C. Hoover to take charge of the conservation work in Oregon, has opened his campaign with a strong appeal for the patriotic individual help of every Oregon man, woman and child in the inauguration and support of the Hoover plan.

Four of the 292 accidents reported to the state industrial accident commission during the week ending August 16 were fatal. They were: Iwachikie Sueyoshi, of Cocharan, and Floyd Hayden, of Neverstill, killed in logging operations, and J. Acker, Portland, killed in shipbuilding operations, and William B. Edmonds, Buxton, killed in logging operations.

Governor Withycombe has expressed the opinion that the proclamation of Governor Lister, of Washington, declaring in favor of the principles of the eight-hour day in the lumber camps of that state might cramp the lumber industry of the northwest if followed out. He bases his contention on the competition which mills of the northwest must meet from the mills of the south, where wages are lower.

After seven months of careful investigation and arrangement of the financial and construction details, a syndicate headed by Stephens & Co., with offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and Coronado, Cal., and by Clarke, Kendall & Co., of Portland, has underwritten a \$900,000 bond issue of the Ochoco irrigation project, in Crook county, Oregon, and has let contracts for immediate construction work. This work is to begin on September 5. To the Twoky Bros. company, of Portland, has been awarded the contract for construction of the project dam and the first 15 1/2 miles of canal.

Notice has been received from Washington that testimony in support of the application of the Willamette Valley Lumbermen's association to the interstate commerce commission for an order to require the northern railway lines to grant joint through rates from points on the Southern Pacific to Minnesota and the Dakotas will be heard before Examiner Marshall in Portland, September 20. This is known as the Portland gateway case and it will be followed by hearing of the case of eastern Oregon lumber producers against the Sumpter Valley railway for joint through rates to points on the Union Pacific system in the intermountain states.

The Koto and Samisen. Japanese girls of the upper and middle classes learn to play the "koto," while those of the lower orders usually learn the "samisen." The "koto" is a narrow horizontal instrument about five feet long with a sounding board upon which are stretched strings supported by means of ivory finger tips. The player sits before the instrument on the floor in the ordinary posture, and when she touches the strings she often sings a soft accompaniment. The "samisen" is a kind of banjo and is often played during theatrical performances and recitations. It gives forth dull and monotonous tones.

Laughter.

Laughter begins either with the mouth or the eyes. Then come the other muscular groups, and then come the vocal expressions of laughter, such as brays, cackles, sniggers, slappers, giggles, snorts, grunts, foghorn rumbles, yells, shrieks, guffaws, trills, chuckles, snuffles and all sorts of peculiar bird notes and musical sounds.—Exchange.

STOMACH TORN UP

Indiana Lady Describes Condition, Which She Says Was Due To Constipation and Tells of Relief Obtained From Black-Draught.

Scottsburg, Ind.—Mrs. Annie Johnson, of this place, writes: "I will remember I suffered for a long time with constipation, which would get me down. I took doctors' medicines and any number of purgatives. They would leave me in a worse condition than I was before taking, and my stomach so upset... I know once I suffered... from constipation, I was so ill we had to have the doctor, just so nervous and feverish. The doctor said I would have to quit medicines, my stomach was so bad..."

My husband was reading and found something about Theodor's Black-Draught and brought me a package to try. I used it regularly at first until I began to feel better, then I used just a dose occasionally. I was cured of this constipation and am sure the Black-Draught did it."

If your stomach is out of order, you will suffer from such disagreeable symptoms as headache, biliousness, indigestion, etc., and unless something is done, serious trouble may result. Theodor's Black-Draught has been found a valuable remedy for these troubles. It is purely vegetable, and acts in a prompt and natural way, helping to regulate the liver and to cleanse the bowels of impurities. Try Black-Draught. EB-15

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THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, offers instruction in the principal departments of vocal and instrumental music. THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT, enrolled 1085 cadets in 1916-17, and won recognition for O. A. C. from the Western Department of the U. S. War Department as one of the fifteen "distinguished institutions" of higher learning. All cadets will be furnished complete uniforms by the U. S. Government and the junior and senior cadets enrolled in the R. O. T. C. will be given commutation for subsistence, as well as all transportation and subsistence at the six weeks' Summer camp. REGISTRATION BEGINS OCTOBER 8, 1917. Information on request. Address, Registrar, Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon.

Board of Equalization

Notice. There will be a meeting of the County Board of Equalization for Sherman county, Oregon, at the Court House in Moro, on the second Monday in September, that being the 10th day of September, 1917, to publicly examine the Assessment Rolls, correct all errors in valuation, description of lands, lots or other property assessed by me. All petitions must be made in writing and verified by the oath of the applicant, and filed with the Board within 15 days from the time it is by law required to meet. Otto Peetz, County Assessor.

Summons

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Sherman county, Franklin G. King, plaintiff, vs. Lilly C. Hussey, G. C. King and Mrs. G. C. King, husband and wife, defendants.

To Lilly C. Hussey: In the name of the State of Oregon: You are hereby required to answer the complaint filed in the above cause within six weeks from date of first publication of this summons, exclusive of the date of first publication; if you fail, plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint; for a decree foreclosing the mortgage described in the complaint; for \$350.00, with interest thereon at the rate of 8 per cent from the 30th day of January, 1914; \$100.00 attorney's fees, and costs and disbursements; for an order that Lots three and four of section seven in township four, south of range eighteen, east of the Willamette Meridian, Oregon, be sold to satisfy above summons, and cutting off all persons claiming any interest in said premises, through you; that the purchaser have immediate possession.

This summons is served pursuant to an order of D. R. Parker, Judge, made on the 11th day of August, 1917, directing that this summons be served by publication for six weeks in the Sherman County Observer.

Date of first publication, August 17, 1917. Date of last publication, Sept. 28, 1917. Frank G. Dick, Attorney for Plaintiff.



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THE DALLES, - - OREGON.

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