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Miles of Surfaced Roads

More than 13,600 of earth roads included in the state highway systems of the 48 states were surfaced by the several highway departments in 1926, according to information compiled from state reports by the bureau of public roads of the United States department of agriculture. The total length of surfaced roads constructed by state agencies during the year was 19,492 miles, of which 13,664 miles was laid over former earth roads and 5,828 miles represented a rebuilding of old surfaces. The reports show that the total mileage of surfaced roads in the state highway systems increased by 18,205 miles during the year; but of this increase 4,541 miles represents no actual work by the states, but consists merely of mileage transferred from county to state jurisdiction, statistical changes resulting from re-survey, etc.

The above figures refer to increases in surface mileage on the state highway systems only and do not include surfacing laid by the counties or other local governments. They do include, however, all work done with federal aid.

The statistical table issued by the federal bureau shows that the combined state systems embrace 287,928 miles and that of this mileage 163,059 miles is surfaced and 28,456 miles is graded and drained according to engineering standards. The state systems are now about 66 per cent initially improved.

The gears of an egg beater cleaned with a little alcohol prevents black smudges.

"Sleep and Grow Thin"

Is New Prescription

One of the quickest ways of getting thin is to go without sleep two nights in succession. This method is not popular, and most people would rather fast for two weeks. Enforced sleeplessness, however, causes flesh to disappear more than twice as rapidly as rigid starvation, even though the non-sleeper is on full diet.

A doctor who was treating a man for obesity by the usual diet and exercise method was recently surprised by an amazing discovery. The course of the treatment was unavoidably held up by the patient breaking his leg, and it was feared that the enforced rest would seriously retard the loss of weight, even though the strict diet was kept up.

When, at last, the man, who had had little sleep, was able to get to the scales again, it was found that the rate at which he had lost weight

was almost exactly double the rate at which he had lost it while taking active exercise.

Hans Andersen

Hans Christian Andersen, the famous writer of fairy tales for children, was an only child of poor parents. He was born in 1805, in the beautiful little town of Odense, on the island of Funen, Denmark, and he immortalized his native birthplace in the story, "The Bell-Deer." Son of a shoemaker, he was sent to the poor house school in the town, where his natural abilities and love of study caused him to gain distinction. After years of struggle, he eventually became famous, when he visited many countries of Europe, and as a notable man was much sought after. Andersen came to know Sir Walter Scott and Robert Burns, besides many other distinguished writers and poets. He died at the age of seventy, and was buried in Copenhagen.

The Caveman and the Highbrow

By H. IRVING KING

(Continued)

SAID Mr. Rascover to Mrs. Rascover: "The trouble with Martha is that she scares off eligible young men—she's too blamed highbrow for 'em."

Mrs. Rascover gave a deep sigh. "That's it, I suppose," she agreed. "She's twenty-five now—a year older than I was when we were married. I've talked to her and talked to her, but it's no use. She's a walking encyclopedia of all the 'ologies' and talks of literature and art with capital letters."

"I suppose that just suits the Manchester fellow," said Mr. Rascover. "I can't bear him. He gets my goat. I wish she would marry Bart Jencks. He's all right, personally, and his father has money. But fellows like Bart will stand about so much highbrow stuff and then they shy off, no matter how pretty a girl is."

Now all this regarding the relations between Bart and Martha was strictly true. But one thing—Bart wasn't afraid of her, and most young men were. Martha had tolerated the young man at first because she found him amusing; then she went on tolerating him with the idea of improving and building up his mental equipment.

That last is a dangerous phase. When a woman undertakes reformatory or uplift work with regard to a young man you can almost always hear the wedding bells tinkling in the distance. In spite of all her highbrow frills, Martha was a pretty bright girl.

Martha had not seen Bart for a week—he had got into the habit of calling at least twice a week and this hiatus puzzled her. She did hope he would call that night. Not because she was so anxious to see him, of course, but because she had an unpleasant duty to perform and wanted to get it over with. She was not going to do anything crude, you understand; not going to tell him that he must cease calling, or anything like that; but just deftly impress upon him that, as the romantics used to say, "she could never be his," though as a matter of fact, he had never asked her.

Egbert Manchester had called on her the night before. Egbert was on the same psychic plane as she. He wore glasses, taught in a girl's college and was up on everything worth while. It was a liberal education in the higher branches to hear him talk. When he had first begun calling Martha was sure she had at last met her soul-mate. But, to tell the truth, Egbert had become rather a bore. Besides, he had an unpleasant way of correcting Martha—as if he were correcting examination papers. And it must be acknowledged that, while Martha's knowledge was all-embracing, it rather lacked accuracy. Subconsciously she was glad that it was Bart Jencks that she was expecting and not the erudite Egbert.

It did not take Martha long to get under way when Bart arrived. She was going to show him by a logical discourse how impossible it was for two persons so different in mentality, temperament and psychic plane to take upon themselves the relations of man and wife. But hardly had she got well started when Bart interrupted her with: "Martha, are you a good cook?" Under the unexpectedness of the attack she faltered and replied: "Why, yes, mother thinks I am. She insisted on my learning domestic science. Why?"

"Well," drawled Bart, "being able to cook, of course, isn't everything; but a woman who knows how to cook herself can supervise the kitchen department better than one who can't. You have every other qualification for a good wife. I'm glad you have a knowledge of cooking, too. It will come in handy after we are married."

"Married?" gasped Martha. "Who are we?"

"Why, you and I, of course," replied Bart. "I saw your father about it, and he's agreeable."

"This is madness," cried Martha. "I have no idea of marrying you."

"Better get the idea, then," returned Bart calmly, "for I'm going to marry you—and you have known it for a long time. Guess we can tip our psychic planes so that they will meet if we try. Then you know you would have years and years of married life to devote to my mental uplift. That last shot hit the bull's-eye. There flashed through Martha's brain two pictures. In one she was married to Bart and leading him gently to higher things. In the other she was married to Egbert Manchester, who was oppressing her with his intellectual superiority and correcting her at every slip she made.

"You are going to marry me," went on Bart confidently—"and if I catch that simp, Egbert Manchester, hanging around here much more I'll punch his nose."

"I was never so astonished in my life!" protested Martha. "Glad of it," replied Bart, "come, give us a kiss." Martha struggled as he took her in his arms—but what could a poor weak woman do in the hands of a caveman?

Stunning

"Your gown is stunning," answered "Something like that," answered Miss Cayenne. "When he first saw it father nearly fainted."—Washington Star.

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Italian style dining group in Combination American Walnut. Six foot extension table and six chairs with tapestry seats **\$72.55**

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