

The Aurora Observer

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Geo. E. Knapp, Editor and Publisher



EDITORIAL
Opinions of the
Observer

Paying for Experiments

A large part of the business of the world results from trying to prevent people from injuring themselves through their own careless acts.

In Chicago is located a unique institution known as the Underwriter's Laboratories. It was established by insurance companies and is for the sole purpose of testing at cost every form of manufactured device as to its fire resisting or accident preventing qualities.

Here are assembled engineers and chemists who with the aid of every modern mechanical device, aid manufacturers in testing any product before it is offered for sale to the public.

After a fire proof door, a safe, an automobile lock or an automobile bumper has gone through the various heat and destruction tests which they give it, it has either proved itself worthy of the label issued by the laboratories to approved products or it has shown weaknesses which may be corrected by the manufacturer before it is offered for sale.

In other words, the Laboratories are rapidly eliminating the days when the buyer paid for experiments of the manufacturer. In doing this it is safeguarding the public against innumerable risks formerly involved in buying and using untested materials.—Industrial News.

A Go-getter.

Cltas. G. Dawes doesn't seem to care so much about hot air and technicalities as he does results.

This fact was particularly in evidence throughout his service as purchasing agent for our government in France during the war, and in his work in preparing a national budget system.

Dawes struck at the root of the farmers' troubles—lack of sufficient foreign market—when he framed a reparation under which Germany and all of Europe could revive and prosper, for in operation, that plan would increase Europe's ability to buy American farm products.

The farmer suffers as much from high prices for what he buys as from low prices for what he sells, and Dawes can analyze the cause in a manner to confound those whose remedy is to hand over the railroads for operation by the government or adopt other socialistic schemes.

As a matter of fact, the American farmer and business man have much at stake in the successful acceptance and application of the Dawes plan for settlement of the Allied Reparations question with Germany.—The Manufacturer.

American Women are World's Best Cooks.

"American women are the best cooks in the world and American men are the best fed mortals," says Miss Ada B. Swan, chairman of the Home Economics Bureau of the American Gas Association. "All this talk about getting the American family out of the restaurants and cabarets and back to the dinner table is exaggerated. Never before has there been such an interest manifested by women in cooking, serving and home-making. Recipes are being turned out by the thousands and cook books by the hundreds, yet the supply cannot keep up with the demand. And modern kitchen equipment is selling at a rate unprecedented in the country's history."

"There is nothing unusual in this. Any one who reads the American woman aright knows that she loves home and family first. She might have wavered a bit in the uncertain days following the war when millions of women became wage-earners instead of home makers, but the trend is the other way now.

For the present-day home-eating

and home-making habits of the American people, we have our modern public utility companies to thank. These companies have taken the drudgery out of cooking and housekeeping by placing at the right hand of untold millions of American countless burden-bearing services all at a cost so low that when they are compared with the other items in the household budget they prove to be among the least expensive.—Open Window.

Original "Uncle Sam" Citizen of Troy, N. Y.

Uncle Sam, of the long white hair, striped trousers and starred waistcoat, who stands for the United States in cartoons, was originally a real person, a citizen of Troy, N. Y., about a hundred years ago. The way the term came to be applied to the United States government happened in this manner:

Shortly after the War of 1812, Elbert Anderson of New York, who was a contractor of the army, went to Troy to purchase some provisions. It was Anderson's habit to stamp all boxes containing the goods with his initials and those of the United States, so that on the end of each box sent out were the letters E. A. and U. S.

Before each box went out it had to be inspected, and one of the inspectors was an old man, popular among his associates for his wit and good humor, named Samuel Wilson. Around the inspecting rooms he was known as "Uncle Sam." One time a new man in the office asked an employee what the letters on the boxes, E. A. and U. S., stood for. The man, thinking to tease Uncle Sam a bit, answered: "E. A. for Elbert Anderson, who contracts for the supplies, and U. S. for Uncle Sam, who inspects them."

The joke spread, and before long the letters U. S. became generally applied to the name Uncle Sam. When cartoonists, looking for a popular figure to impersonate the United States, heard the tale, they used the characteristic Uncle Sam of the inspecting room, dressed in flag-like clothes.

Why African Natives Slay Twins at Birth

The other day a paragraph appeared in the Mall describing the murder of native twins in South Africa. The untraveled man must read this with horror, and rightly too, though I doubt if he ever thinks of the tribal laws and customs underlying such a seemingly horrible practice—customs which the native had observed for thousands of years before the coming of the white man with his new ideas.

Unfortunately Europeans so often try to teach the native mind too quickly. They expect him to break suddenly from his time-old traditions and embrace immediately altogether different morals and ideas. They are surprised when he occasionally returns to his barbaric creed, instead of marveling that such lapses are so rare. That they are so rare is a big tribute to the trust and understanding existing between black and white. For all these, to our mind, terrible customs were originally intended only for the good of the race.

From time immemorial, twins have been regarded with horror by most—if not all—savage tribes. I have tried to trace the basis of this belief in many parts of Africa, and the nearest I could come to it was this:

When a woman gives birth she is believed to produce one soul. If, by some terrible misfortune, that soul should be divided, what chance can it have in this world or the next?—Molly Torin in the Continental edition of the London Mall.

Love of Flowers

Rude sketches of flowers appear in pre-historic caves, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Flowers have been rhapsodized over by painter, musician, poet and prose writer from the days when the first glimmerings of intelligence, and therefore of beauty, were beginning to penetrate the thick skulls of our ancestors. And that great love has been carried down the corridors of the centuries.

Early these flaming masses of nature's loveliness were transplanted from the sunny meadow and the shadows of woodland to the gardens of men. Men and women wanted them before their eyes without taking the trouble to go far from their homes. Kings and queens filled their palaces. Wives of humble peasants brought them from the wild places and set them out around their cottages.

Many Flying Animals

In Australia there are at least twenty species of animals which are aviators. Among them are flying squirrels, flying opossums, flying mice and even flying bears.

The name which applies to them all is "phalanger." This means that they have, extending from the front to the hind legs, a membrane which enables them to float in quite a graceful way from tree to tree. They are not really flying animals, but gliders.

The flying squirrel is said to be the most beautiful mammal in the world. It is odd that in the land where many animals fly, birds often cannot fly at all. Both the emu and the cassowary are practically wingless, and have to depend upon their long and strong legs to escape from their enemies.

Aurora: 50 minutes from Salem; 60 minutes from Portland; 30 minutes from Oregon City.

Mercury Forced From Ore by Distillation

Probably the largest exposed deposit of cinabar, or quicksilver, ore, is that forming the mountain from which the town of Black Butte, Ore., derives its name. There a vein 400 feet wide has been opened for more than a mile along the mountain at a depth of 1,000 feet below the crest. In Europe the chief mines are at Almaden, in Spain, and at Itria, a town 25 miles from Trieste.

The process of obtaining the mercury is called distillation. After being crushed the ore is subjected to intense heat, 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. When the ore has attained the temperature of 680 degrees, the mercury is driven off in the form of vapor. This vapor is passed into large wooden or brick chambers called "condensers" which are surrounded by water jackets and other devices designed to reduce the temperature. In these chambers the vapor is condensed, the quicksilver resuming a metallic form and being deposited in fine globules on the walls and floors. These globules, as they increase in size, merge and run out in troughs ready to be marketed. The product is shipped in wrought-iron flasks weighing fourteen pounds each and holding seventy-six and one-half pounds of the metal, for which the dealer contracts at the market price.

Ancient Authors Had Variety of Interests

To prolong the life of man for thousands of years to melt precious stones and pearls and give them desired shape, size and color, to enable a man to fast for six months or more without losing his health and life; to cause new teeth to grow in the place of fallen teeth—such are some of the benefits to mankind aimed at as revealed by an ancient library belonging to Doctor Syed, M. D., Kassim, Jahagirdar, head of the Pasteur hall, Pathargatti, Hyderabad, says the Scientific American.

This library contains rare and valuable ancient books and manuscripts on palm-leaf leaves, written in almost all the languages of India. Some of them seem to be the works of the hoary Vedic period.

In one book is described a kind of wireless telegraphy in which two stone plates are to be prepared and placed at great distance from each other without any wire connection. It is said that communications can be carried thousands of miles by means of these.

Famous London Well

After being hidden and almost forgotten for hundreds of years, the old well from which Clerkenwell takes its name seems to have been rediscovered and laid bare, London Tiv-Bits states.

It was called "Clerks' well" because "the parish clerk of London in remote ages annually performed sacred plays in front of it."

What is believed to be the "Clerks' well" was discovered recently under a shop floor in Farringdon road. It was while workmen were pulling down the building that their spades revealed the well.

In the well are the remains of a leaden suction pump, by which the water, it is said, used to be conveyed to the street outside for the use of priors, nuns, clerks and ordinary folk.

Close to the well a fine piece of Roman wall has been unearthed. So substantial is it that it is to be used as part of the foundations of a new building to be erected on the spot.

The Great Mogul

The British territory (India) is divided into six large provinces—Bengal, Bombay, Madras, the Northwest Provinces and Oudh, the Punjab, and Burma—and eight smaller ones, administered by governors, lieutenant governors, chief commissioners and agents to the governor general, the whole under the viceroy, who represents the king-emperor, and has been described as "His Majesty's Greatest Subject." These provinces include what were once the high and puissant kingdoms of the subahdar of Bengal, the nawab of the Carnatic, the peshwa of the Mahrattas, the emperor of Delhi (more commonly known as the Great Mogul), the king of Oudh, the maharajah of the Punjab, the king of Burma, and the amehrs of Sind.—From "Indian Life in Town and Country."

Squelches Scientist

A distinguished astronomer tells of a visit paid by several young women to his observatory.

"I had done my best," he said, "to answer with credit the running fire of questions which my fair callers pouped. I think I had named even the remotest constellations for them, and was congratulating myself upon the outcome, when one of the younger members of the party interjected:—"But, as it has never been proved that planets are inhabited, how do the astronomers find out their names?"

Didn't Mix Well

"Miss Curlycue," murmured the office manager to the stenog, "I don't wanna be harsh. Nothing like that, I really don't."

"Let's have the answer," said the daisel nonchalantly. "What's gone wrong now?"

"I just wanna ask you not to write your young man during business hours. Letters are apt to get mixed. Herb & Blurb report that we have sent 'em a shipment of love and kisses instead of the axle grease they ordered."

Timepieces Are Given Most Rigorous Tests

Anyone may send his watch to the bureau of standards for a test to ascertain whether it qualifies as a timepiece of the highest grade, designated as "class A." This privilege is used chiefly by watch manufacturers, who are thereby enabled to furnish each tested timepiece with a government certificate.

To ascertain the accuracy of a timepiece it is placed in a large glass-front refrigerator, equipped with automatic devices that keep the temperature at a fixed point, in which the watch "runs" for stated periods at various degrees of heat and cold. When the regulator has been set, the flow of cold air from the ice chest above the watch chamber is controlled by a thermostatic device, and, when necessary, warm air is introduced from the outside. The three temperatures at which all watches undergoing the test are kept are 45, 70 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

To qualify in "class A" a watch must not vary more than four or five seconds from correct time, and, in addition, it must be able to repeat its performance in a variety of positions and under varying conditions. In all there are eleven specifications in the test, some of them involving technical calculations.

Any variance made by the watches under test from correct time is recorded by means of a chronograph.—Washington Star.

Italian Genius Came to Aid of British Library

The British museum library is the first library of the modern world.

Like many other British institutions, it owes much of its greatness to a foreigner, Anthony Panizzi, a renegade Italian. Born at Modena in 1797, Panizzi became a student at Parma, and then joined a revolutionary movement in his native duchy.

The revolution failed and Panizzi fled; first to Switzerland and then across Europe, arriving in a destitute condition in London. He became a teacher of Italian, received an appointment at the library, and came into power as its keeper in the first year of Queen Victoria's reign.

At that time the library, which had been founded in 1753, was languishing for want of intelligent supervision. It contained a valuable collection of some 250,000 books, but the cataloging and arrangements for reference were bad.

When Panizzi left its service, some thirty years later, it contained 650,000 volumes, housed under a single dome. This dome, which is second only in size to that of St. Peter's, Rome, was one of the many clever ideas of Panizzi, who was altogether a remarkable character. He was knighted some time before his death in 1879.

Not to Be Outdone

It was the last day of school before annual spring vacation and a teacher in the junior high school at Anderson was having little success with a class of pupils whose thoughts were bent more on the vacation than on studies. With the training of a first-rate school-mistress she feigned that all was well with her, but school children are not "fooled" by a teacher.

Just as the last class of the day adjourned, she made this remark to the students:

"I hope you all have a very enjoyable spring vacation, and hope that when you come back you'll be in your right minds."

"Same to you," the children replied in unison.—Indianapolis News.

Fruitful Land

It has been said that there is no place in South Africa where some variety fruit will not grow and thrive. Apples, apricots, avocado pears, bananas, cherries, gooseberries, figs, grapefruit, lemons, limes, pineapple, plums, quinces, melons, olives, oranges and peaches are grown in the Union on a commercial scale.

One of the greatest advantages held by South Africa as a fruit exporting country is that, owing to its geographical position, its products reach the British market in the off season, and may also reach the United States. The trade has been remunerative despite heavy spoilage.

Guard Against Poison

There are many schemes for marking poison bottles, but here is one of the safest and best. By the simple means of pasting a strip of sandpaper over the face of bottles containing poison, says Science and Invention, the danger of getting a bottle by mistake, even on account of darkness, is eliminated. Persons grasping the bottle will receive no discomfort, but will get sufficient warning as to its poisonous contents. Most of the body of the bottle should be covered with sandpaper. A small label designating the poison should be pasted somewhere above the sandpaper.

His Hard Luck

"Take a chance on a raffle, will ya?" asked the stranger.

"No, sir," replied Levi. "I never took but one chance on a raffle and I won that time."

"Well, if you are lucky, why don't you take another chance?" asked the stranger.

"Never will I take another chance on a raffle," announced Levi. "The time I took the chance a man raffled off a house, a lot, a horse, a wagon, a cow and a hog. And I won the hog."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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A Test Every Man Past 40 Should Make

Medical authorities agree that 65 per cent of all men past middle age (many much younger) are afflicted with a disorder of the prostate gland. Aches in feet, legs and back, frequent nightly risings, sciatic pains, are some of the signs—and now a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has written a remarkably interesting Free Book that tells of other symptoms and just what they mean. No longer should a man approaching or past the prime of life be content to regard these pains and conditions as inevitable signs of approaching age. Already more than 10,000 men have used the amazing method described in this book to restore their youthful health and vigor, and to restore the prostate gland to its proper functioning. Send immediately for this book. If you will mail your request to the Electro Thermal Company, 657 Knapp Bldg., Steubenville, Ohio, the concern that is distributing this book for the author, it will be sent to you absolutely free without obligation. Simply send name and address. But don't delay, for the edition of this book is limited.

Final Notice of Executrix

To whom it may concern:

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Sarah W. Mann, has this day filed, in the County Court for Marion County, Oregon, her final account as executrix of the last will and testament and estate of James D. Mann, deceased, and that said court has fixed and appointed Tuesday, July 15, 1924, at the hour of ten o'clock a. m. of said day, in the county court room, in the county court house, in said county and state, as the time and place for the hearing of objections to such final account and for the settlement thereof.

SARAH W. MANN.

Executrix of the last will and testament and estate of James D. Mann, deceased.

Carey F. Martin, attorney for estate, 413 Masonic Temple Building, Salem, Ore. June 12-July 10

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NORTH BOUND

No. 22 (on Flag).....5:44 a. m.
No. 16 (on Flag).....7:38 a. m.
No. 62 (Stop).....10:19 a. m.
No. 18 (Stop).....2:16 p. m.
No. 24 (on Flag).....7:00 p. m.

SOUTH BOUND

No. 17 (Stop).....9:43 a. m.
No. 61 (on Flag).....2:08 p. m.
No. 23 (Stop).....4:53 p. m.
No. 21 (on Flag).....9:09 p. m.

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