

MARTIN A. ALLEN OF Dansville, New York, who professes to be the first person in this country to parachute jump from a balloon, at the age of 86 is watching with interest the feats of his grandnephew, who is a professional parachute jumper. Allen made his first jump in 1877 and his last when he was 68. He says that if it were not for his rheumatism he would still show the younger generation some tricks in the game in which he was an expert.

ALLEN'S CLAIM TO BE THE first parachute jumper in the United States is likely to be disputed. While records on the subject are not available, there must have been parachute jumping in this country long before 1877. Ballooning was then well established, and successful parachute jumps had been made on the other side of the Atlantic for more than three-quarters of a century.

PARACHUTE JUMPING IN some form or other is so old that its history is lost. Innumerable persons, inventive and adventurous, have experimented with umbrella-like devices with which to descend from considerable heights. Many broken bones resulted. As early as the seventeenth century the court of the king of Siam was entertained by a man who made jumps from a great elevation, gliding to safety by means of two exaggerated umbrellas attached to a girdle around his waist. The first successful parachute drop from a balloon made in public is credited to Andre Jacques Garnerin, who made many such descents near Paris toward the close of the eighteenth century.

IT MAY BE THAT WE SHALL have to get ready for the automobile with the rear drive. Such cars are already in use in Europe, and one has been placed on the market in the United States. This car as described is pleasingly stream-lined, with the engine at the rear of the body and a baggage compartment under the hood where the engine was formerly placed. It seems that that might give the driver a greater sense of security than being placed right in the front of everything.

WHEN VISITORS ATTEND THE World's fair at New York they will find, among other things, a sizeable forest where at present there is nothing but mud flats. Ten thousand trees, of all sorts of varieties, are to be planted on the grounds, beginning about March 15. These will not be mere saplings, but regular trees. Specifications call for maples, oaks and elms six to 18 inches in diameter, the larger elms to have a spread of 34 to 40 feet. Some of the elms, with attached earth, will weigh 25 tons. Such an elm will cost about \$500.

G. J. ANDERSON, OF WHOSE visit to Texas mention was made in this column some time ago, is home again and ready to tackle his regular job at the Great Northern car shops. He visited Florida and had a pleasant time there with friends. He saw the famous Bok singing tower, watched porpoises sporting in the waves, and admired the long rows of green benches with which the streets of St. Petersburg are lined, and on which tourists rest, read and gossip.

RETURNING, MR. Anderson's train was rerouted part of the way on account of the flood, which had subsided considerably, but had left transportation in considerable confusion. At Louisville the Ohio river was seen as a streaming volume of dirty water. The water had left the streets, but mud and slush were everywhere, and marks on the buildings told of the level which the flood had reached. Whites and blacks were at work on the tremendous task of getting settled again in their homes, which had been temporarily abandoned.

MAKING HIS CONTRIBUTION to the already large volume concerning the location of the village of Orono, Ontario, Charles Drew of Forest River writes that he is a native of Oshawa, not far away, and that his grandfather and grandfather's brother were the first settlers in that vicinity, going there to trade with the Indians. Mr. Drew writes appreciatively of the Canadian readers which he used in school about 1870.

MAIL, PLANTS HAVE NOT been stopping at Grand Forks for some time because of inadequacy of the airport. Among other things the field is too small to permit runways of sufficient length to accommodate planes of the size that are being flown on this route. Grand Forks is not the only city which lacks desired airport facilities. The city of Washington, D. C., has no landing field that can accommodate big bombing planes of the latest design.

THE ARMY HAD A NEW four-engined bomber which is being broken in on flights to various air stations, and it was intended to have the plane flown to Washington and landed at Boiling field for inspection by air corps officers and members of congressional committees. Deciding that the landing facilities at Boiling field are inadequate for such a large craft, officials decided to land it instead at Langley field, Virginia, about 135 miles away.

GRAND FORKS WILL, NOT need facilities for handling such a large craft as the army bomber, but unless the city is to be deprived permanently of the advantages of air transport, the present field must be enlarged and important improvements must be made. It has been said that cities got along for a good many years without air service, which is true. It is also true that people got along for a good many years without railroads and electricity. But today most people think those things necessary.

THOSE WHO JOIN THE Excursion to Winnipeg arranged by the Cavaliers for March 12, 13 and 14 are sure to have a good time. In addition they will help to promote future visits of Winnipeg people to Grand Forks. Such visits in the past have helped to strengthen cordial relations between the two cities, and they have been of very decided material advantage to Grand Forks in a business way. This is a case where good neighborliness and enlightened self-interest go hand in hand.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT started something when he proposed the remaking of the supreme court. It is said that no public matter has ever before been responsible for such a bombardment of letters and telegrams for or against the proposal as has been let loose on the senators and representatives in Washington. And in my own little corner I am trying to dig out from under the mass of letters telling me where the village of Orono, Ontario, is. I am thankful to all the correspondents, but by this time I know where the place is, and enough is plenty. I thank you.

J. H. GRIFFIN, WHO Winters at Bradenton, Florida, always keeps the old home town in mind, wherever he may be. Just now he writes about Red Lake, at whose mouth he was instrumental in having the dam built years ago.

MR. GRIFFIN IS A FIRM Believer in the 23-year weather cycle, and he feels sure that we have several years of wet weather in prospect in the near future. He insists that the Red Lake dam must be kept in repair and that it should be closed now in order to hold back the excess water from melting of snow. His idea is that we can get all the water we need from the Clearwater basin until late summer, when the gates at Red Lake can be opened and we can draw on the Red Lake supply.

IT IS UNFORTUNATELY true that while we have been getting no water from Red Lake during the past year or two, the level of that lake has been lowered steadily except that there was a slight rise last spring. And if water from the lake were released now we could not get it, as the marsh on this side is like a dry sponge, ready to absorb the water instead of letting it flow past.

EDWARD ENERSON WRITES from Niagara enclosing a pamphlet on which appear two pictures of the "big snow" of the winter of 1896. The pictures were taken at St. Petersburg and give different views of a Great Northern train buried in the snow just after the great storm of Thanksgiving day. The drift on one side is level with the top of the train, and standing on top of the drift is Michael Broton of Petersburg. If I am not mistaken it was that train which was snowed in at Petersburg for three days. That storm was historic, but in his 55 years of farming at Niagara Mr. Enerson has become familiar with snow storms. He writes that he drove oxen for 19 years. Many North Dakota farms were first broken up by means of ox teams. Oxen were slower than horses, but they were strong and steady and could work several hours a day more and thrive with no other feed than the prairie grass, whereas horses needed grain, and there was no grain to be had save such as was hauled in on wagons.

J. H. GRIFFIN SENDS A Catalogue of the flower show just held at Bradenton, Fla. Provision was made for many of the flowers familiar in the north, but which do not bloom here until midsummer. Now, of course, they are in full bloom in Florida. Just the same, when our flowers are in bloom, we can have as fine a display of color here as anything they have in Florida, and the northern flowers far excel the southern ones in fragrance.

THE MAIL, BRINGS A Pleasant letter from J. J. Mealy, of Reynolds, who says that he reads this column regularly and finds something interesting in it, but he would like to have it kept in the upper right-hand corner of the page, as that makes it easier to clip. I am glad that Mr. Mealy finds something in the column sufficiently interesting to clip, but there are several reasons why it cannot be assigned unvaryingly a permanent place on the page. There are other features which much be accommodated, and these are subject to certain variations Further the column itself is subject to the whims, eccentricities and uncertainties of the writer, so that its length cannot be guaranteed from day to day.

IT'S QUITE A LONG TIME since arithmetical or similar puzzles have appeared in this column, but Mr. Mealy sends two which may interest readers. Here is one:

A KING, WISHING TO CHOOSE a very intelligent prime minister, called A, B and C to him and said: "I shall place either a red or a blue circle on each of your foreheads. As soon as you see a red circle, put up your hand. As soon as you know what the color of your own circle is, put down your hand, and he who first knows what the color of his own circle is shall be prime minister."

The king then placed a red circle on each man's forehead. Immediately each man put his hand up, each seeing a red circle. After a moment A put his hand down, knowing his own circle was red. How did he know?

THE OTHER PUZZLE IS purely arithmetical. It runs: A brakeman was on the caboose of a very long freight train when it left A, bound for Z. Before passing through X the brakeman walked over the top of the train to the engine, thereby arriving at X $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes sooner than if he had stayed on the caboose. The train was traveling 27 miles an hour. How long was it?

I SHALL GIVE THE ANSWERS in a few days. In the meantime readers who are interested may exercise their wits on the puzzles.

IT IS OFTEN REMARKED that things would be much better if our foresight were as good as our hindsight. The fact that it is not has cost billions of dollars. Just now New York City is arranging to fill in several acres along the East River front of Manhattan to make a recreation park. A little foresight could have reserved for public use all the land required for that purpose; then there would have been no need to make new land of what is now river.

CHICAGO HAS NOW A FINE system of parkways along the lake front, but it is all made land, built at a cost of hundreds of millions. Whoever had charge of things at the beginning permitted all of the then existing lake front to pass into private ownership. Railroad tracks were laid and business blocks built on it, and the only places where the public had access to the lake were at street-ends. With commendable enterprise the city reached out into the lake and took in more territory, which would not have been necessary if the city had preserved the water front that it had.

NATURE GAVE THE CITY OF Toronto one of the finest waterfronts in the country, with a curved shore-line stretching for miles along the bay, which constitutes one of the finest inland harbors on the continent. But railroads were permitted to be built there, factories and warehouses sprang up, and at the extreme ends private residence property reached right down to the water. Again millions were spent to build new land, and the city now has a fine system of parks and beaches along the bay. But it was all unnecessary if the founding fathers had taken steps to protect what they had.

LACK OF FORESIGHT HAS by no means been confined to the big cities. We are all in the same boat. At Grand Forks, for instance, nature planted a forest along the river. But that forest was included in the early city plats and it was destroyed to make room for business houses and residences. The city might just as well have been built a few blocks farther west, leaving the forest for public use. If that had been done what a magnificent parkway Grand Forks could have had today, with fine forest drives running all the way from Lincoln park to Riverside! All the commercial and residence needs of the community would have been served as well as now, if not better. And the river front would have been a place of beauty instead of the untidy, down-at-the-heel thing that it has become. Nobody thought about it in time, and now it is too late.

HOMEOWNERS WHO ARE considering spring planting will necessarily give due consideration to lilacs, that which no finer flowering shrub grows. Years ago we knew of only one kind of lilac, the "common," or "vulgaris" variety. That lilac is a splendid bloomer, but it grows suckers so freely that it is not always easy to control. Literally hundreds of varieties have since been developed, many of them free from the sucker habit, and many popular with fanciers because of the delicate form and fragrance of their blossoms.

BUT BECAUSE OF ITS Sturdiness of growth, its free-blooming habit and the size and fullness of its blossoms, the old-fashioned lilac held its own for a long time against the innovations. But there have been developed strains of French and Persian lilacs which compare favorably with the vulgaris in all blooming qualities, and which have the added advantage of being free from suckers. Some of these varieties are further desirable because they bloom much earlier than the older types. It is not unusual to see a good specimen of one of these newer strains begin to bloom in the same year in which it is planted, and often small plants two or three years old will be masses of bloom.

SPRING IS CONSIDERED THE best time of the year to plant lilacs, and with reasonable care in planting them are almost sure to grow. Few insect or bacterial pests attack them, which is a further advantage.

ON HIS WAY HOME FROM Florida Dr. W. H. Witherstine passed through the recently flooded district in the Ohio valley and had an opportunity to see much of the havoc wrought by the flood. In Louisville buildings bear the marks left on their walls by the flood at its crest. In the largest hotel in the city the water had been two feet deep on the main floor, while at a filling station a block away the water was eight feet deep, the difference, of course, being due to variation in street levels.

WHILE ONE IS IMPRESSED in the business section of the city by the amount of damage represented in dollars, Dr. Witherstine says that the most pitiful scenes are to be found in the districts occupied by the smaller homes such as are occupied by persons of only moderate means, many of whom, doubtless, have been paying for homes and furniture on the installment plan.

IN SUCH DISTRICTS MUCH of the furniture is a total loss, and yards around the residence are littered with radios, pianos and furniture of all sorts, some of which has dropped to pieces while the rest is warped and twisted so that it is beyond repair. In the buildings floors are warped and buckled and plaster is destroyed. In many of those cases the savings of years which have been put into those modest possessions are completely wiped out.

ANOTHER PICTURE OF THE flood is that given by a resident of Lawrenceburg, Indiana and recently received from her by a friend in Grand Forks. This lady writes:

"WE WENT BACK TO Lawrenceburg Sunday to see what we had left from the flood. Of all the pitiful, heartbreaking sights you can imagine, Lawrenceburg is the worst. The newspapers, pictures and radios do not tell it nearly as bad as it is.

"THE HOUSES ARE TURNED over, piled on top of each other, sitting out in the streets, and many have entirely collapsed. Those which have not moved from their foundations have porches off and roofs and chimneys caved in. At every house left standing the windows and doors are wide open and the broken furniture, rugs, pictures, pianos, etc., are thrown out in a pitiful muddy heap. It sure was pitiful to see everyone digging away trying to save what they really can't save.

"THERE WERE NOT MANY tears—it hurts too deep for tears. On our street everybody did just as we did, moved everything upstairs and then lost it all. The houses on our street were not as badly damaged as some other places, but the porches are all down and windows broken. Inside our house it looked as if a giant hand had stirred everything up. The beds, chairs and tables were upset and broken. The mattresses were so water-soaked that it took four men to move and throw them out. Many of the bedclothes were torn so badly we could only throw them away.

"OUR ELECTRIC Refrigerator and washing machine will have to be sent to the factory for reconditioning. We can save the iron bed and the old antique bed, which had no veneer on it, can be refinished. The bed springs, dishes, silverware and cooking utensils can nearly all be used, although some of them are bent and broken beyond repair. We also sent the two best rugs to the dry cleaner but I do not know whether they will come to pieces or not.

"THE TABLES, CHAIRS AND dressers and the rest of the furniture just fell to pieces when we tried to lift them. I brought back to Bertha's what table and bed linen and clothing I could find to try to wash them. Everything was covered with a thick, slimy, mud, and did not look as if they could be made usable."

DO YOU KNOW THAT WHEN your long-distance telephone call is timed in order that the proper charge may be made, you are allowed five seconds grace in order to avoid the possibility of error? I haven't inquired whether or not it is done that way in Grand Forks, but that's the way it seems to be done in New York.

A New Yorker brought suit against the telephone company for \$3.85 which he alleged he had been overcharged through improper timing of long distance calls. At the court hearing not only were several telephone operators placed on the stand to testify as to the practice followed, but one of the instruments used in checking time was set up and a demonstration was given of its use. Searching questions were asked, and answers given, concerning the time required for insertion and disconnection of plugs and other details of operation.

PROBABLY NO ONE NOT immediately concerned has given much thought to the subject, but at any rate it would be a mistake to suppose that at the beginning and end of a call the girl looks at the office clock to see what time it is and then performs the necessary problem in subtraction mentally or with pencil and paper. It isn't done that way at all. An instrument called a calculagraph is used for that purpose, and it is said to be as accurate as it is humanly possible to make a piece of machinery. And, to make everything safe, the customer is allowed a margin of five seconds. When the article concerning the case was published the hearing was not over, but it had been brought out that the plaintiff is agent for a rival calculating device.

THOSE EARTHQUAKE TREM-ors in the Ohio valley seem to have been of unusual severity for that territory. The tremors lasted two minutes, and persons who have had experience in other quakes say that while an earthquake is in progress two minutes seems like a sizeable section of eternity. Chimneys and plaster fell, buildings rocked, windows were shattered and furniture was displaced. At Peru and Ruchester, Indiana, winter circus headquarters, elephants trumpeted and lions and tigers roared as the earth shook. Two hours passed before the animals could be quieted.

IT IS NATURAL, TO ASSOCI-ate earthquake with the floods which have so recently subsided, but authorities on the subject find little to indicate any connection between the two. The territory east of the Mississippi is no stranger to such shocks. Several states in the same area were affected by similar tremors only two years ago, and there have been numerous minor tremblings. The Charleston earthquake, away on the east coast, is historic.

IN 1811 MUCH OF THE Territory between the Mississippi and the Alleghanies was in a state of violent motion at frequent intervals for a year or more. Over great areas there were startling changes in the landscape. Lake beds were elevated and became dry land. Streams were dammed by the elevation of their outlets and lakes were formed where no lakes had been before. There was scarcely any population in the territory, but the few settlers went about their daily work expecting to be interrupted from time to time by the pitching and heaving of the earth. It is possible on shipboard to become so accustomed to the motion of the ship that one can move about and work 'without inconvenience. "Getting one's sea-legs" is the term used to describe the process. But it has yet to be recorded that anybody, anywhere, got his "earthquake legs," in a similar sense.

TULIPS ARE UP. A SNOW-drift about four feet deep covered them during most of the winter, and part of the drift is still there. But on Wednesday, when the first bit of bare ground appeared close to the house, there were the tiny tulip shoots just visible above the surface. Now several dozen of them are visible.

A PETITION OF RATHER Unusual nature has been presented to the school board of the village of Roslyn, Long Island, by a large group of taxpayers and school patrons. The petitioners ask that the board "modify, revise or change the system of education in the elementary grades of the village schools to a system of education in which the 'tool' subjects, reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling and history fill a minimum requirement for each grade and are thoroughly mastered."

GLORIFICATION OF THE three R's is nothing new. Many grandparents and great-grandparents of today are fond of lauding the little red schoolhouse and the courses of instruction that were given in it, just as they are fond of recalling the pleasures of a buggy-ride about the middle of the last century. But in actual practice, nobody would be willing to exchange an automobile for a buggy, with all in the way of roads and related conveniences that each represents. Nor are there many who would exchange education as it is today for what it was a generation or two ago.

IT IS A FACT THAT MUCH OF the lessening of emphasis placed on the three R's and their immediate associates has been due to demands made by parents themselves through various social and business groups of which they are members. It has been urged that the youngster should be taught something that he could put to immediate use, and in complying with this demand the schools have expanded their courses and taken on more and more subjects of vocational character, often at the expense of the basic studies.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST IS the petition of the Long Island villagers because of the belief expressed that the specialization in which their schools have engaged renders the pupils less efficient than they would have been under what are often held to be less progressive methods. In other words, if the view expressed is correct, the schools of that community, in striving for what they consider efficiency have really impaired the efficiency of their pupils by failing to provide them with a sound and substantial foundation on which to build.

IT IS LESS THAN A MONTH since the new High school auditorium was completed, but already the service which it can render to the community has been well demonstrated. In addition to the public exercises in connection with the opening of the building and the dedication of the organ and the use which has been made of the room in distinctively school work, there has been given one professional entertainment by an exceptionally capable company and a local talent entertainment by a high school group, with a play by the University Playmakers scheduled for March 10. Features of this nature can now be enjoyed in comfortable and artistic surroundings, and the room is of ample size to accommodate gatherings that could not be housed elsewhere in the city.

THE ROOM WILL BE IN frequent use for school assembly purposes. It will make possible for the community professional entertainment, dramatic and musical, of a high order, which would not otherwise have been available. And it will provide the means for the training of hundreds of young people from the city and the University in forms of expression which will be of incalculable value to them.

STATISTICIANS HAVE IT figured out that a person has about 11 times as good a chance of being killed by an automobile as the holder of a ticket in one of the sweepstakes lotteries has of winning even one of the smaller prizes. Put in another way, if you hold a lottery ticket the chances are 11 to 1 that you will be smashed up by an auto before you win a prize. Such odds are altogether too great. But if I don't buy a lottery ticket are my chances of longevity improved any?

PROFESSOR ROSS J. Griffeth, member of an Indianapolis college faculty, has been telling about some of the things that he would include in the courses of the ideal university that he would like to establish if he had the chance. Among other things, he would have each student work three months at a filling station in order to become proficient in courtesy. For those who are slow to learn the manners of good society he would prescribe a long stay in China, where good behavior is considered as necessary as breathing. He would have a course in movie production in order to teach silence while others are talking. For those who are hard to please with food he would have a course of visiting around at homes of various types, with the requirement that students eat what is set before them or go hungry. And to teach punctuality he would have a class at 8 in the morning, and any student not there on the dot would be flunked.

A NOTE FROM NEW YORK says that orchestra crooners are paid \$35 to \$50 a week. I wonder why.

SOMEBODY IN ITALY HAS "discovered" that Buffalo Bill was actually an Italian. Steps are being taken to erect a monument in Italy to the memory of that distinguished son, and, further, to collect an immense fortune said to have been left by the plainsman, and to which a number of Italians have been persuaded that they are heirs. This runs counter to the supposedly well authenticated fact that Bill was born in Iowa, and to the indisputable fact that for some years prior to his death he was practically dead broke.

TO MOST OF US HORACE Greeley is a vague, shadowy figure, belonging to a past so distant that we have no contact with it, but only the other day Horace Greeley's only daughter, Mrs. Gabrielle Greeley Clendenin, died at her home at Chappaqua, New York, where she had lived for 46 of her 80 years. It was not only through her ancestry that she was linked with greatness, for she had known many of the splendid figures of the past. She knew Whit-tier and Dana. She went to school where the Alcotts attended and where Emerson was superintendent. In London she lived three doors from the Brownings and remembered them dropping in often for tea. She met Sir Henry Irving when he was plain mister and she knew both Gilbert and Sullivan at the height of their success. She is survived only by a grandson, Frank C. G. Stahl, who is now the only descendant of the founder of The New York Tribune.

A LITTLE TRAVEL BOOK Issued for the convenience of tourists in Great Britain, gives a lot of information about where to go and what to see and concerning regulations to be observed. Mention is made of the fact which is generally understood that an automobile in meeting another, turns to the left and in passing turns to the right, just the opposite of the American practice. But when passing a tram—otherwise street car—one may drive on either side, a practice which one would suppose would be productive of head-on collisions.

I AM REMINDED OF THE Experience of two American women traveling in England. One had hired a car and driver for a rather extended tour. A traveling bag which had been placed on the car roof shook off and was lost. The owner gave it up for lost, but the driver was in no way disturbed. He explained that when it was found and turned in to the nearest station it would be held for identification and would then be forwarded as directed. At the first stopping place the loss was reported to the constable who took a description of the contents of the bag with instructions for forwarding. With scarcely any delay the bag arrived at the designated place, with contents intact.

IN THE OTHER CASE A Valuable coat was lost on the highway. After the usual report had been made the coat was returned, with a note from the official of the station where it had been left expressing regret that some candy in one of the pockets had been nibbled by mice.

IN EACH OF THESE CASES the traveler had been impressed by the confidence of the driver that the property would be returned. There was an air of surprise at the suggestion that some chance finder might keep it. In the first place, it was explained, nobody along the countryside would have use for the clothing worn by tourists. And in the second place, keeping things that were found that way just wasn't done. Of course it would be turned in to the proper officer. Anything else was unthinkable.

TO MOST OF US, PROBABLY, Palestine is a land of ruins representing a civilization long since vanished. We should expect to find in it neither the glories of King Solomon's day nor the evidences of a new and progressive civilization. We have learned that the land which Joshua's spies reported to be a land flowing with milk and honey long since became harsh and sterile and its inhabitants a pitiful remnant of the tribes that once tilled its fields and thronged its cities.

UNTIL VERY RECENT YEARS such conceptions of modern Palestine were correct. But a transformation has taken place since Palestine was restored to its status as the national home of the Jewish people. And an impressive picture of that transformation was given in the film "This Is the Land," which was shown at the Forx theater on Sunday night.

IN THAT PICTURE Spectators were shown the landscape as it was before the work of reconstruction began, a landscape bleak and desolate, of treeless hills and drifting sands, and of once prosperous cities in ruins—a fit setting for the poverty and hopelessness of the people. But a new day has dawned and the sun now shines on a smiling land and a happy people. The waters of the Jordan have been brought again to the fields. Great flocks of sheep and herds of cattle feed again on rich vegetation. Again the fig tree blossoms and the vine yields its fruit. Old cities have been, re-born and new ones created. Instead of broken walls and shattered pillars there have arisen the walls of fine modern homes and busy factories, while through the busy scene move men and women, boys and girls, attired in modern garb, eager, alert and hopeful. What has been achieved in Palestine is a triumph of courage over despair, an achievement in which the whole world has a right to rejoice.

DR. GOTTFRIED HULT HAS received word that his translation of the Ibsen play, "The Lady of the Sea," closed a successful week at the community theater at Pasadena, Calif. The translation was made for Vassar college, where it was used last year, and where it won commendation from New York dramatic critics.

HERE'S WHERE THE OLD home town breaks into print in a large way. The following paragraph about control of diphtheria in Brantford, Ontario, appeared in the Toronto Globe, and was reproduced with editorial comment in the New York Times:

"BRANTFORD'S DEATH RATE from this cause speedily dwindled to zero. And at zero it has remained for years. Not only that, but the disease, once a fearful scourge of infant life and still, sadly enough, a major cause of death in many less enlightened communities, has been wiped out entirely as far as Brantford is concerned. During the last 15 years about 13,-500 school and pre-school children have been protected against the malady and there has not been a single case of it in this no-diphtheria town for more than six years."

BRANTFORD HAS A Population of 30,000. There the toxiod treatment for prevention of diphtheria was introduced 15 years ago through the foresight and enterprise of the local health officer, with the results above stated. Hamilton, a near-by city, we are told, has a similar record, and throughout the province has had results in proportion to the enthusiasm and diligence with which preventive measures are applied.

I AM INFORMED THAT THE New York practice of allowing the telephone user a margin of five seconds in timing long-distance calls is also followed at the Grand Forks exchange, and is general throughout the system. In exceptional cases, such as are found on some rural lines, an allowance of 15 seconds is made locally.

SIT-DOWN STRIKES HAVE become frequent, if not popular, and the plan has all sorts of variations. Is a lady slow about accepting the proposal of her gentleman friend? He chains himself to a radiator and sits down. Is another gentleman slow about paying alimony to his divorced wife? She plunks herself in to a chair and sits down. The ways in which the device can be applied are infinite. The principle involved in the sit-down strike is that of nuisance value. Considerable research has been devoted to the subject to determine the origin of the plan. Examples of it on a small scale have been found in early American history, in the history of England, and in that of continental Europe. The gospel according to St. Luke contains a passage which indicates that without any commitment as to the legality of the device, its efficacy was recognized nearly two thousand years ago. In that case we are told of the man who, being asked for bread under inconvenient conditions, though he would not give it because of friendship for the petitioner, yet because of his importunity gave the man all that he asked.

THERE IS NO OFFICIAL Record to indicate when and where the first sit-down strike in North Dakota occurred, but the earliest case that has been brought to my attention is that of a strike staged home 40 years ago by George L. O'Neale in the village of Buxton. The owner of a small Buxton store owed O'Neale a bill which he had promised repeatedly to pay, and did not.

ONE FORENOON O'NEALE stepped into the debtor's store, seated himself as comfortably as possible, and said: "I've come for that money that you owe me, and I'm going to sit here until I get it!" Time passed, and nothing happened. Noon came, and the debtor wanted to go home for lunch. "I'll tell you what I'll do," he said. "I'll pay you half of the bill." "All right," said O'Neale. "I'll take half."

The money was paid over, and O'Neale resumed his seat. "What are you waiting for?" asked the debtor. "For the other half," said O'Neale. And he got it.

GEORGE O'NEALE WAS A brother of J. M. O'Neale, for many years a resident of Grand Forks and Thompson. His daughter, Dr. Lila M. O'Neale, is a specialist in textiles, and is recognized as one of the leading American authorities on that subject. She has been employed by the Guggenheim foundation in research, and one of her assignments was to visit Mexico and study the ancient textiles of that country.

MR. CECROPIA MOTH, which has been in storage all winter, has emerged from the cocoon, and is out with wings fully spread and in all its brilliance of color. The specially interesting thing about this particular insect is that the building of its cocoon was watched day by day until the work was completed. Last fall the large grub was found building its cocoon in a glass jar which was found on the premises which was being cleared to make way for the new Piggly Wiggly building on University avenue, and jar and contents were passed on to me.

THE CATERPILLAR HAD Enclosed itself in a thin shell of web-work which was to form the exterior of its cocoon, and for days it could be seen at work on the inside, thickening and strengthening the structure. After the material had become thick and opaque the caterpillar could still be heard at work. Then it went to sleep for the winter, to emerge now a dazzlingly beautiful creature, with wing-spread of fully six inches. Another cocoon, detached from a twig, is still in storage, and from it have come no signs of life. The Cecropia, which is fairly common, is one of the largest of our native moths as well as one of the most beautiful.

PROFESSOR HAROLD H. Bender, of Princeton, comes to the defense of the word "ain't," finding that the word has been in use in the United States from as far back as the Declaration of Independence. The first use of the word which he has found recorded was about 1775, when it was used as a contraction for "are not," and its use has continued, with various modifications until the present time.

CURRENT USE OF THIS form is usually defended by those who say that there is no other convenient contraction for "am not." For other negative forms of the verb to be there are convenient and grammatical contractions. For "is not" we say "isn't." For "are not" we use "aren't." But when one wishes to abbreviate the expression "am I not?" which often needs to be abbreviated, he may shudder at the monstrosity "ain't" and may substitute the still more monstrous "aren't I?"

THERE IS NO NEED FOR this. There is available a contraction for "am not" which antedates the Declaration of Independence, which is consistent with the usage applied to other words, and which is grammatically perfect. I refer to the word "amn't." That is a good old Yorkshire expression, habitually used by my grandfather, and inherited by him from a long line of sturdy ancestors. While I seldom use it myself, I am in favor of having it given equal standing with the other familiar and correct contractions. I have written about this before, but nobody has paid any attention. I shall send Professor Bender a copy of this, and maybe we can get some action.

IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, the head of the book department in a big store has just retired after continuous service of 46 years. He served first as errand boy and janitor and worked up through the various grades until for many years he was in complete charge of the department. Asked as to his plans for the future he replied that he expected to devote most of his time to reading. Just like the mail-carrier who spends his holiday taking a nice long walk or the sailor ashore who rents a row boat and goes for a cruise on a Central Park lagoon.

IN THIS CONNECTION I AM reminded of the late George B. Winship, founder of the Herald. In the old Herald building his office was reached through mine, and it was to my desk that callers came first. Book agents were numerous in those days, and every once in a while one would drop in with a fine set of somebody's works which could be had on what seemed very easy terms. I wasn't buying many books myself, and when the agent started his speil I would check him and explain that Mr. Winship was the man for him to see. In a large percentage of cases the agent would make a sale.

WHEN THE AGENT HAD gone I would laugh at the boss for being so easy, and he would grin in admission of the charge. "But," he would say, "all my life I have loved books. I like to own them, even though I don't, read many of them. My time has been so broken that it has been difficult for me to sit down and really read. But I live in the hope that some day I shall be able to read, regularly and thoroughly, the books that I have been piling up on my shelves.

HE DID JUST THAT. IN THE last twenty years of his life, which he spent in California, he devoted a large part of his time to regular and systematic reading. In one letter to me he enumerated some of the books that he had read during the past year. That list alone constituted a fair-sized library of history, biography, philosophy, social science and other solid literature. He made excellent use of his investment, and it returned him good dividends.

SEVERAL CORRESPONDENTS have sent correct answers to the railway problem, which is really one in elementary arithmetic. In its simplest terms it resolves into this: How far will the caboos of a railway train travel in $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes if it is moving at the rate of 27 miles per hour? The answer, of course, is 5,940 feet, or $1\frac{1}{8}$ miles.

NOBODY HAS VOLUNTEER-ed a solution of the problem, of the three men with rings on their foreheads, which is really a clever and interesting one. I should like to hear from that. In substance the problem is this:

An eastern king wished to appoint a new prime minister, and there were three candidates, A, B, and C. In order to determine their intelligence he announced this test: "I will mark on each man's forehead a red or a blue ring. Then each man who sees a red ring is to hold up his hands, after which the man who knows the color of his own ring is to lower his hands. The men looked at each other and all raised their hands. After a pause A lowered his hands, saying that his ring was red. He was right, but how did he know?"

ALTHOUGH A MAN OF Public spirit, Professor Raymond R. Hitchcock was less well known to the general public than are many other worthy and useful citizens. He had the respect and cordial regard of his associates on the University faculty and of the students who came within his sphere of work. But for several years the state of his health debarred him from participation in activities outside of his immediate profession and compelled him to restrict his work and conserve his energies.

HIS TASTES, MOREOVER, were for the quiet life, and he found the keenest enjoyment for his leisure hours in close contact with nature. He loved the society of trees and flowers, and each miracle of growth, of development of form and color which the seasons brought was to him a source of satisfaction. Under the loving guidance of his hand trees and shrubs grew to perfection and flowering plants and garden vegetables alike responded to his touch. His home was a place whose beauty he was glad to share with his friends, and his own spirit was attuned to its harmony and graciousness.

NEW YORKERS RECALLED last week the great blizzard of 1888, which was one of the outstanding events in the history of the city. It was in that storm that Roscoe Conkling, one of the most conspicuous public men of his day, was found helpless and exhausted on the street after battling with the elements, to die a little later from the effects of exposure.

STORMS ARE RELATIVE. The buildings of great cities give measurable protection from them, and the storm which sweeps with irresistible force across open country may cause little inconvenience in a city. The Thanksgiving storm of 1896 is historic in this territory, but there have been other storms almost equally violent. The feature which made the 1896 storm was the great quantity of snow that fell during it and that had already fallen, to be picked up by the wind and piled up in great drifts.

IN THIS SECTION MARCH has been productive of bad storms, one of the worst of which occurred about March 8, 1892. That storm began with rain which flooded low lands, to be followed by snow and bitter cold. Many cattle died from exposure in that storm, as they became soaked with water before the snow began.

A BULLETIN ON THE Making of fossils, issued by the Carnegie institution, gives descriptions of the manner in which plant and animal life in certain sections of Alaska has been fossilized within the brief space of 25 years, following the eruption of Mount Katmai in 1812. That eruption was the greatest ever known. The three peaks of the mountain, then covered with snow, were blown off, leaving a crater three miles wide and thousands of feet deep. It is estimated that five cubic miles of ash were thrown out.

BECAUSE THE TERRITORY was practically uninhabited no loss of life is known to have occurred as a result of the eruption, but ashes from the mountain were carried by the wind for thousands of miles. Great ash deposits fell all over the surrounding territory, and it is from excavations in these that specimens of fossilized or partially fossilized animal and vegetable life are now being recovered. Examination of these serves as a guide to the study of fossil dating from prehistoric times.

WHILE EXPLORATION IS being conducted in the ash of Alaska, preparations are being made for search for treasure that lies hundreds of feet under water in the hulk of the Lusitania. After long search the ship has been located exactly and preparations are being made for descent to the hull to recover, if possible, the treasure of various kinds that is known to have gone down with the ship. The work will be watched with interest because of the revelations which may be made as to the character of the ship's cargo.

ONE ITEM IN THE COST TO the British government of the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth will be the anticipated deficit of \$70,000 arising from the sale of seats erected to command a view of the coronation parade. The government is erecting seats at advantageous points at a cost of about \$150,000, but at the prices charged, averaging about five dollars, the receipts will yield only about half the cost. While these seats will be occupied by private individuals they will not be available to the general public. In order that it may be possible for as many groups as possible to be represented various fraternal, trade and professional bodies will be asked to name representatives, to whom invitations will be sent. The representatives thus chosen will be privileged to occupy the government-built seats upon paying the required fee. This feature is in no way related to the sale of sight seeing privileges by owners of private property along the way. Window spaces and other points of vantage all along the route are being fitted up for spectators, and space in such places is being sold for whatever it will bring.

AN ELEMENT OF LOCAL Interest attaches to the selection of a president of the University of Wisconsin to succeed the deposed president, Glenn Frank. The man who seems most likely to fill the position is C. A. Dykstra, city manager of Cincinnati, whose wife was the widow of Dr. Frank Rickaby, a member of the faculty of the University of North Dakota until his untimely death. Mr. Dykstra and Mrs. Rickaby were married several years ago.

THE ART OF WRITING WAS invented as a means of making a visible and intelligible record of thought. Its symbols, once crude drawings of natural objects, have passed through many stages until they have reached the arbitrary forms now familiar. It has long been a mystery why so many persons in signing their names abandon the only purpose for which writing was invented and deliberately make scrawls which no Sherlock Holmes could decipher. The only proper purpose of a signature is to convey to the person who sees it knowledge of the identity of the signer, and that purpose is utterly defeated by many signatures which, while they may be works of art, are undecipherable.

THE ART OF PRINTING IS an offshoot of the art of writing. The two have a common purpose, to convey meaning to the reader in convenient form. And because the printed word is read by more persons than is the written word, clearness and legibility is even more desirable in that form. Yet in much modern printing that requisite of legibility seems to have been forgotten. In the striving for "artistic" forms the designers of type seem to have forgotten that printed words are to be read.

IT IS AMONG THE Magazines that the worst offenses against good printing are to be found. Letters are often so shaded and embellished that it is next to impossible to decipher the title of an article without picking out the letters one by one. And, if one is interested in knowing the authorship of an article he may find the writer's name tucked away in an obscure corner of the next page or jumbled up with a section of the text. The jig-saw style of architecture is now generally condemned, but we seem to be in a jig-saw era of typography.

NUMEROUS REFERENCES are made, sometimes by well-informed writers, to the alleged requirement that appointments to the federal supreme court shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of the senate. There is no such requirement. The constitution says that the president "shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the senate, shall appoint . . . judges of the supreme court." Only a majority vote is required for confirmation of judicial appointments.

JUST NOW THERE IS A Revival of the discussion of the influence of newspapers as indicated by the results of the election of 1936. In the campaign preceding that election Governor Landon was supported by more newspapers than favored Governor Landon. Recent calculations indicate that the Landon papers went to about 63 per cent of the country's newspaper subscribers while the other 37 per cent received Roosevelt papers. But Roosevelt received 63 per cent and Landon only 37 per cent of the votes.

VARIOUS ATTEMPTS ARE made to reconcile and explain these apparently contradictory facts. But in none of them is attention given to what seems to be the obvious explanation. This is that the election was decided by people who do not read newspapers. Circulation managers will please take note and get busy.

A KOREAN GIANT, KIN FU Ki, who is 7 feet 9 inches tall, plans a trip to the United States to challenge American giants to an eating contest. When reminded that Robert Wadlow, of Alton, Illinois, is 8 feet 5 inches tall, he expressed indifference as to the Illinois boy's height, and maintained that he could beat him in an eating contest, anyway. He says he can eat five times as much rice as a Japanese soldier.

WADLOW, AT THAT TIME about 17 years old, was one of the features at the Chicago World's fair. One of the tallest men ever known, he is also, like many of them, quite slender. I recall one of Barnum's giants, "Colonel" Goshen, who was both tall and bulky. He was a veritable mountain of a man. Years after I had seen him with Barnum's circus I saw him on State street, Chicago, driving a diminutive pony cart which was decorated with an advertisement of some sort.

IN HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY Barnum describes his method of measuring candidates for engagements as giants with his show. He had found, he says, that by flexing certain of his muscles a man standing on his feet could increase his apparent height perceptibly. To avoid this Barnum made his giants lie down flat on their backs before being measured. Another peculiarity noted by Barnum was that giants were as a rule much more amiable and even-tempered than dwarfs, and his giants often complained that the dwarfs "picked" on them and appealed to him for protection.

FRANK LABINE HAS JUST received from a cousin a letter describing the progress made recently in the development of radium mining on the project in which the cousin is interested, which lies in Canada's far north, almost at the edge of the Arctic circle. The story of the discovery in that distant spot of a large deposit of pitchblende, the ore from which radium is extracted, has often been told. Since that discovery large sums have been spent on the development of the property, and the operations are now conducted on a large scale.

LOCATED MANY HUNDREDS of miles from the nearest railroad, the mines could have been reached a few years ago only by months of travel, but the distance between the mines and the end of steel is now covered by plane in a few hours. Heavy and bulky machinery has been shipped in by air, and by the same means the precious ore is shipped out. After reaching the railroad the ore is shipped to Port Hope, Ontario, where great reduction works have been built. This summer the company will make use of a water route of 1200 miles, which, while slower than the air route, will make possible appreciable savings in transportation costs. The water route, of course, can be used only in the summer months.

SOMEWHERE THE OTHER day there was published a comic picture of a youngster sucking an icicle after the fashion of an all-day sucker. But, it was explained, the icicle was sweet, being composed of frozen sap from a maple which had become solidified in the frosty air as it dripped. Similar scenes may be found almost any spring in the prairie country, where, instead of maples, we have box elder trees. Sometimes the broken box elder twigs will drip profusely, and during a cold night sweet icicles are formed.

APRIL, WEATHER ALWAYS reminds me of sugar-making as it was, and as it still is in some sections in the east. Sap runs best in spring weather when the days are warm and the nights crisp. On such a day the drip, drip from a single tap will fill a big pail in a few hours. Sugar-making can be carried on in the most primitive fashion. A small notch cut in the tree trunk with a sharp ax will release the sap. A sharp stick driven into the opening will conduct the sap away from the trunk and permit it to drip. For catching the sap our forefathers used a shallow trough hewed from a section of wood about two feet long. Modern pails have taken the place of the trough, but the tapping process is essentially unchanged.

FOR COLLECTING THE SAP barrels were mounted on low, flat sleds which were drawn by a team or a yoke of oxen along the meandering trail through the maple grove, and the sap was reduced to syrup by being boiled in great iron kettles out of doors. At the end of the season the syrup was boiled down to sugar, and the "sugaring-off" party was one of the events of the season.

THE CONSISTENCY OF THE boiling syrup was tested from time to time by pouring a small quantity upon the snow. When it had reached the taffy stage it made good chewing, and astonishing quantities of it were consumed in that form. At just the right stage the hot syrup was poured into moulds, and became the dark brown maple sugar with which most of us are familiar.

IN SOME SECTIONS OF THE east the manufacture of maple sugar has become an important commercial industry, and there improved methods of evaporation are used. These are superior in efficiency to the old methods, but not half as much fun.

EXCELLENT SYRUP CAN BE made from the box elder, and this can also be boiled down to sugar. The process takes more boiling than with maple, as the sugar content is not so great. The syrup and sugar are lighter in color and milder in flavor than the maple product, but both have the 'mapleish' tinge.

SEVERAL SOLUTIONS OF the circle problem submitted by J. J. Mealy of Reynolds have been received. In order that problem and solution may be fitted together the problem is repeated as originally given:

A king, wishing to choose a very intelligent prime minister, called A, B and C to him and said: "I shall place either a red or a blue circle on each of your foreheads. As soon as you see a red circle, put up your hand. As soon as you know what the color of your own circle is, put down your hand. And he who first knows the color of his own circle shall be prime minister. He then placed a red circle on each man's forehead. Immediately each man put his hand up, each seeing one or more red circles. After a moment A put his hand down, knowing that his own circle was red. How did he know?

THIS CONCISE AND ACCURATE solution is given by Miss Orell McGuire, 324 Fenton avenue:

A reasons: "If my ring is blue B or C, either) will know that C could have raised his hand only in consequence of seeing a red ring on B's forehead. B would then have lowered his hand, knowing that his ring must be red. Because he has not lowered his hand my ring cannot be blue. It must be red."

THERE IS JUST ONE CHANCE of error in this. A assumed that B, or C, was intelligent enough to follow the line of reasoning indicated. He might have been mistaken. But it may be taken for granted that any promising candidate for the position of prime minister would have at least that degree of intelligence. Of course under the conditions stated either one of the men might have reasoned as A. did, or all might have reached the same conclusion at the same time. But A was quicker and more intelligent than the others.

JUST RECEIVED FROM A friend is a little "Coronation calendar," published in anticipation of the coronation of King Edward VIII. Bound in gold leaf the tiny booklet contains, in addition to the usual calendar tables, pictures of Edward taken at various periods in his life. Like innumerable other objects of similar character this coronation souvenir has been made useless by the king's abdication, save as specimens may be collected and kept as souvenirs of an even that never came to pass. And the number of such objects is so great it will be a long time before they acquire the value, from the collector's standpoint, that is given by rarity.

SOME OF THE FRIENDS WHO sent in solutions of the colored circle problem have asked for more. All right, here's one:

Three men were stranded in a desert island. Two became almost black from exposure to the weather, while the third remained white. The man who remained white always spoke the truth. The others always lied. A ship, coming to take them off, arrived at night. The captain called to the men standing on the beach, "Are you black or white?" A, one of the three, replied so indistinctly that the captain could not understand him. "What does he say?" asked the captain. B, the second of the three, replied, "He says he's white." Which of the three men was white?

HERE IS SOMETHING WHICH is neither a contest nor a problem, but merely a test in identification: What is the source of the line "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown?" I'm asking that one because not long ago I caught myself attributing that familiar quotation, not to the wrong author, but to the wrong character.

THE DUKE OF WINDSOR IS to receive no pension from the British government. The budget just presented to parliament contains no provision for maintenance of the former king, who will now be obliged to worry along as best he can on the income from the few millions left him by his grandmother, some other private property which he owns, and such donations as are made to him by other members of the family, who, in turn, get theirs from the treasury.

IN THIS COUNTRY WE ARE a little more considerate of some of those who occupy high places. It is true that the president wishes to be authorized to tender the six ancient members of the supreme court their respective hats, with a pointed invitation to get out. But, as an added inducement, it has been provided that if they accept the invitation their salaries shall be continued.

GREAT BRITAIN IS Experiencing some difficulty in the effort to work itself into a lather over the approaching coronation of King George. Everywhere it is conceded that the young king is a nice fellow, but it is not easy for a nation to transfer its affections all at once from a prince who for 40 years has been regarded as the coming man, and who in his own right had endeared himself to the people, to another prince who during those years had been required to play only second fiddle, and mighty little of that.

NEVERTHELESS, BRITAIN IS warming up, and the king is becoming better known. He is said to accept with good humor the boredom of preparing for the coronation, though he wonders how it is possible for a fellow to smile for five solid hours. A friend quotes him as saying:

"Not only must you be letter perfect with your lips, but with your feet. If you turn left instead of right, or step back instead of forward, you throw the whole show out of gear."

THIS FRIEND SAYS THAT during a chat of 40 minutes the king stammered slightly only twice. The king is said to be greatly amused at some of the descriptions of him that have been published. He said:

"According to the papers I am supposed to be unable to speak without stammering, to have fits, and to die in two years. All in all, I seem to be a crock."

A LETTER CONTAINING A solution of the colored circle problem comes all the way from Alma, Mich. The writer, Dr. Alden W. Squires, a former Grand Forks boy, is practicing medicine there. The town has a population of about 8,000, and Dr. Squires says that there is in it another former Grand Forks doctor, Dr. Charles DuBois, with whom he frequently exchanges news of Grand Forks and the University. From away on the other side of the world come Honolulu papers mentioning some of the activities of another Grand Forks boy, Richard B. Black. One of the papers has a picture of Dick on skis. Usually one does not think of skiing in connection with the Hawaiian islands, but rather of sun-baths, beaches and dusky maidens wearing grass skirts and throwing garlands of flowers over your head.

HOWEVER, THERE IS DICK, large as life, trudging up a snow-clad mountain side, for they actually have snow over there. It is found only on the higher mountains, and on one of them, Mauna Kea, there is enough to provide a continuous ski slide of six miles at an estimated speed of 50 miles an hour. That is said to be one of the finest ski slides in the world. To Dick walking on skis must seem like old times, for he did a lot of ski tramping down in the Antarctic with Byrd.

JUST NOW BLACK IS Presumably on board a coast guard cutter in the immediate vicinity of Howland island awaiting the arrival there of Amelia Earhart, who took off at Oakland, Calif., on Wednesday for Honolulu on her projected flight of 27,000 miles around the world.

BLACK, SERVING AS FIELD representative of the department of the interior, is in charge of the work of the building of hangars and preparing landing fields on the islands of Howland and Jarvis, which are to be air stations on the route from Honolulu to New Zealand. When it was learned that Miss Earhart contemplated her present flight work on the islands was speeded up so that landing fields would be ready for her. A month ago the work on Howland was almost completed, and the equipment was then to be sent to Jarvis. Coast guard craft were to be stationed at several points along the route, and Black expected to await Miss Earhart's arrival in the immediate vicinity of Howland.

MISS EARHART'S FLIGHT will be the first attempt at "following the equator" around the world. Other flights "around the world" have really gone only around top end of the sphere, where the distance is several thousand miles shorter than at the equator, although the irregular course followed has added materially to the distance. Miss Earhart will also fly an irregular course so as to land at certain convenient points, but she will jog back and forth across the equator several times, adding a couple of thousand miles to the greatest circumference of the earth. If her flight is successful she will be the first human being to complete the circuit of the earth, approximately on a great circle. Obviously this is impossible by land or sea, and this is the first time that the attempt has been made by air.

RECEIPT OF NEWS ABOUT former Grand Forks people so widely separated reminds me how members of families and acquaintances become separated. Here we have Dick Black out in the middle of the Pacific and Alden Squires down in Michigan. And Alden's brother, Duane, is away east in New Hampshire. I have a brother who, starting out as a clerk in Ontario, has worked in Vancouver, Kamloops, Calgary and Montreal, and who has for several years been in business in St. John, New Brunswick. I had a first cousin who, I suppose, if still living, is in St. Louis, whom I saw only while he was visiting in Ontario one summer. I was a little tot of about 6 years of age, and my only distinct recollection of the big cousin is that he was a husky youth who thought it fun to carry me on his back.

LETTERS RECEIVED BY friends from Dr. and Mrs. R.D. Campbell tell of their interesting cruise in the West Indies and in South American waters. Stops were made at Nevis island, where the birthplace of Alexander Hamilton is shown. It was there, also, that Lord Nelson was married. The tourists were impressed by the change which has taken place on all the islands visited. Three hundred years ago those islands were the homes of wealthy planters who owned vast estates and lived literally like kings, and trade with Europe brought a continued in-pouring of wealth. Now most of the evidences of prosperity have disappeared, and the blacks, who constitute the greater proportion of the population, can scarcely be said to have any standards of living.

THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHERN territory the travelers noted with interest that most of the labor is performed by women, who carry enormous burdens on their heads. One of the stories relating to this practice was told by an officer of Campbell's ship. According to this story a number of tourists were being escorted through Georgetown, British Guiana, when the attention of one member of the party, an enthusiastic woman suffragist from New York, was directed to a native woman who was struggling up a hill carrying what was evidently a great load in a big basket on her head. The lady had the car stopped while she got out to speak to the overburdened native woman. Explaining that she should not perform such heavy labor she asked "Have you no husband?" Whereupon the husband, who was in the basket, raised his head and made his presence known. His wife explained that he did not like to climb hills, and she seemed proud that she had a husband who gave such evidence of refinement.

SOME INTERESTING Statements concerning the influence of latitude and of the rotation of the the earth on athletic records are made in an article in the Scientific American By Professor Paul H. Kirkpatrick, of Stanford university. Mention is also made of errors in recording due to the fact that while in races starting and stopping time is recorded electrically in hundredths of a second, yet at the 1932 Olympic games the starting gun was fired from a position where its sound could not be heard by the waiting runners until three or four hundredths of a second had elapsed.

OTHER EFFECTS, THE Professor points out, are often much larger. That of the earth's rotation he says would add a full half inch to John Anderson's Olympic discus record if he happened to throw in an easterly direction, that is, with the earth's rotation. The effect of latitude on the force of gravity is to give a broad jumper, using exactly the same effort and take-off, a record three eighths of an inch better in Texas than in Massachusetts. When a hammer is thrown at Tokyo at the 1940 Olympic games it will go four and one half inches farther there than it goes, for example, in Finland, due to difference in latitude. The shot putter will gain an inch in the same way (not to speak of the putters' records in case he happens to put the shot from an elevation even a single inch higher than the spot where it lands), and the javelin thrower will gain a whole foot. Similar differences occur at other places and times.

IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND that there will be some difference in gravitational pull due to difference in latitude, and I am willing to take the professor's word for the degree of this difference in feet and inches. But I can't get the idea that the same force will propel a thrown object farther if it is thrown east than if it is thrown west, measurement, of course, to be on the earth's surface.

ALL OBJECTS ON THE earth's surface, attached or unattached, are moving from west to east, at the exact speed of the earth's rotation, and relative positions are maintained, just as if there were no rotation at all. The water in a glass on a steady railway diner does not pour over the westerly edge of the glass. The passenger in an automobile, on a train or on a much more swiftly moving airplane has no sensation of forward motion if he is protected from the wind and from view of surrounding objects. After the start the passenger in the modern skyscraper elevator does not know whether he is going up or down. His hat does not push down over his ears going up or fly off coming down. Still, the professor may be right, and I leave it for the class in physics to figure out.

AN ARTICLE RELATING TO rules of the road, while not stating the facts very clearly, leaves the impression that the practice of keeping to the right is the prevailing one on the European continent as well as in this country, and that the practice of keeping to the left is confined almost entirely to Great Britain. I had supposed that they drove to the left in most or all of the European countries. Some of our friends who have traveled in Europe ought to know.

THE ENGLISH RULE OF driving to the left is a very ancient one, and it was incorporated in a general law enacted in 1835. The same law prescribes penalties for riding on a cart, or on the horse drawing the cart unless the animal is lead or driven. That seems reasonable.

I HAVE SEEN THE ORIGIN OF the practice of driving on the right side of the road described this way: Oxen were commonly used for heavy hauling, and the driver usually walked on the left side of his team so that he could more conveniently guide the team with the whip or goad in his right hand. In meeting another team the driver turned to the right in order that he might be between his own animals and those of the other outfit. Thus the practice started, and it has been continued ever since. That explanation is satisfactory as far as it goes, but it leaves the English practice up in the air. It would fit perfectly if all Englishmen were left-handed.

IN HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS the driver, when riding, always sat at the right, and on the extreme right of every dashboard was the socket which contained the whip when not in use, but which could readily be grasped by the driver. In the first automobiles the current practice of seating the driver at the right was followed. It was soon discovered, however, that it was safer to have the driving done from the left, as the driver could then gauge more accurately the distance between his car and the one he was meeting.

SOME OF OUR COMMON Superstitions can be traced with at least some degree of probability to actually observed facts. One of these is the belief in' groundhog day. Of course the groundhog doesn't know anything about what the weather is going to be, nor is his behavior based on future weather. But if the weather early in February is unseasonably warm, the warmth is likely to breed a storm and the storm to be followed by a severe cold snap, which means a delayed spring. Those simple facts have been woven into the groundhog superstition.

A FRIEND WHO IS FAMILIAR with woodland lore suggests that the belief that hogs should be butchered between new moon and full moon so that the pork will not shrink in cooking but remain plump may be based on conditions which once prevailed in the timber country of the east. There hogs ran at large through the woods, and if permitted to roam in the fall until the beech nuts covered the ground the pork would be soft and oily and would shrivel in cooking. And the beech nuts usually dropped just before the last full moon of summer.

THIS FRIEND ATTRIBUTES the belief that a rainy Easter is followed by seven rainy Sundays to the fact that month by month our little weather cycles require about a week each to complete. From this general approximation there was developed an arbitrary rule for which there is no real basis.

A CORRESPONDENT OF THE Durham, North Carolina Sun describes Professor Frederick H. Koch as sitting at his desk with an old pipe in his mouth, a twinkle in his eye and his head thrown back with a proud gesture of approval as he stacked up the manuscripts of the pageant, "The Festival of Youth," which his Playmakers are to present on the Duke college stadium on April 23 at the celebration of the centennial of public school education in North Carolina.

THE' PAGEANT IS PLANNED along lines similar to those used by 'Professor Koch in the preparation of the "Pageant of the Northwest" at the University of North Dakota, with responsibility for script, scenery and all other features distributed among the members of the class. The North Dakota pageant was Professor Koch's first, and he looks back upon it with pleasure as he believes it to have been in its communal method of authorship without a precedent in the history of pageant making.

THAT PAGEANT, SAYS Professor Koch, "demonstrated that the community with adequate direction can not only enact in dramatic form its own traditions and history, but can actually create pageant literature itself, so that literary, as well as historic art is cultivated.

IN REPLY TO MY Perfectly reasonable suggestion that the simple contraction "amn't" be substituted for the mongrel "ain't," Professor Harold H. Bender, of Princeton, replies:

"It seems to me that "an't" is better than your "amn't," phonetically, historically and usagally. The contraction "an't" is common In England and even more so in Ireland. But it must be noted that "ain't" represents various contractions and origins." There may be something in Professor Bender's contention that his form is the better one, phonetically, historically and usagally, as he says, but I still maintain that "amn't" is the better word philologically, grammatically and consistently. As to the historical background, an old play, "Lights o' London," which was popular 50 or 60 years ago, had a line in which a sturdy Yorkshireman used "amn't," with the misplaced "h" quite common in Yorkshire speech. This form of expression may be discussed further when we get the supreme court controversy and some other matters settled.

IN THE MEANTIME, Another college professor, Professor Clyde R. Miller of Teachers college, New York, wants the cartoonists to banish Uncle Sam and substitute a more dignified figure as representative of the United States. He describes the Uncle Sam of the cartoons as a "serious-minded, penny-pinching, budget-examining, church-deacon type who fails on nearly every count to represent most Americans."

THAT IS A GRAVE Indictment in these days when serious thinking seems to be at a discount, when lavish open-handedness is the order of the day, when the checking of a budget is regarded as a practice handed down from the dark ages, and when the homely virtues for which the church deacon is supposed to stand have been consigned to the junk-heap by many of our up-and-coming writers.

I AM AFRAID, HOWEVER, that for some time to come the cartoonists will be unable to agree on an acceptable substitute for Uncle Sam. After all, he isn't so bad. Like Britain's John Bull, he is exceedingly adaptable. Both are caricatures, and cartoonists are essentially caricaturists. And, while neither of those legendary figures is a photographic likeness, each can be invested by the skillful cartoonist with whatever quality he wishes to present, bigness or littleness, dignity, generosity, pettiness or conceit. And the symbol that could not be used in such diverse ways would be of no use to the cartoonist.

I HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL solutions, correct and incorrect, of the puzzle of the three men on the island, two of whom were black and always lied, and one was white, and always spoke the truth. Here is the solution in a nutshell:

Any one of the three men, being asked his color, would have replied "I am white," the blacks because they always lied, and the white man because he always told the truth. When B said of A "He says he's white," he was telling the truth, therefore he was white.

SOME DAYS AGO I ASKED for the source of the quotation
"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown."

All the replies that I have received attribute the line, correctly, to Shakespeare, but it is variously attributed to Richard II, Henry IV and Macbeth. The line occurs in the second part of King Henry IV, act 3, scene 1, in which the king laments his inability to sleep.

HERE ARE SOME LINES which will be recognized by older readers: "I come, I come! ye have called me
long, I come o'er the mountain with
light and song; Ye may trace my step o'er the
wakening earth,
By the winds that tell of the violet's birth, By the primrose stars in the
shadowy grass, By the green leaves, opening as I
pass." Who can give the author's name
and the title of the poem?

DR. HEISER, IN HIS BOOK "An American Doctor's Odyssey", says that to make conversation he sometimes propounded this question:

"What five words in English end in dous?" He writes that General Leonard Wood was so intrigued by the question that he had his secretary go through the dictionary to find that necessary words, and that the secretary is said to have found 10 such words. How many readers can think of five?

AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE BOOK just received is "The Supreme Court Issue and the Constitution" edited by William R. Barnes and A. W. Littlefield (Barnes & Noble, New York, cloth, \$1.00, paper 75 cents). Its publication was prompted by the controversy over the president's proposal to increase the personnel of the supreme court, and its publication is exceedingly timely.

This book is in no sense a profound study of the issues involved in this discussion. It is, as it professes to be, "a digest of essential information, and there are few persons who seek to follow developments in the supreme court issue who will not find it useful for reference. Within the compass of its 150 pages is packed a vast amount of information, much of it already familiar to the general reader, but also much of it of just the character that the general reader is unable to find when he wants it.

THERE ARE GIVEN IN THE book the text of the constitution; a chapter on its origin and development; a list of cases in which federal legislation was declared unconstitutional; text of President Roosevelt's message to congress submitting his proposal; text of the judiciary reorganization bill; short biographical sketches of the supreme court justices, and much other material which the reader wishes to have conveniently available. A brief bibliography points the way to a mine of information which may be worked by the student.

INCLUDED IN THE WORK are many pages of excerpts from the speeches and writings of members of congress, other public officials, jurists, lawyers, publicists and editors who have expressed themselves for or against the president's plan. Presented without comment, these constitute a symposium from which the reader, if he wishes, may select material with which to support his own belief or to demonstrate the weakness of his adversary's argument.

THE EXPRESSION "EATING crow" conveys an unpleasant impression, but somebody in the Biological Survey is taking some pains to convince the people that, after all, crow is not bad eating. In fact, it is set forth that crow is both palatable and nourishing. Young crow is said to be quite as good as squab, if properly cooked, and the biologists furnish instructions as to methods of cooking.

IN THIS COUNTRY CROW dinners have never been popular, but the English have long made use of rooks—similar to our crows—for food, and rook pie is a dish that appears often in English literature, and, presumably, on English tables.

ONE OBJECTION OFTEN Advanced against the use of crows for food is that the crow is a carrion bird. After a fashion it is. But so is the barnyard hen, yet we have no objection to fried chicken and chicken pie. Actually the crow is largely a vegetarian. Sometimes it robs the nests of other birds, and it does not disdain refuse, but the bulk of its food is grain and weed seeds, Sprouting corn appeals to its taste, as many farmers have learned from experience.

IN THIS OPEN COUNTRY WE do not have the great flocks of crows that were, and I suppose still are common in eastern timbered sections. In my boyhood the homeward flight of crows was one of the regular spectacles of the summer evening. Flocks of many thousands of the black birds selected certain groves as their roosting places. From those they would fly each morning, usually in scattered flocks, to favorite feeding grounds. In the evening they returned in an apparently endless procession, and this would be repeated during the greater part of the summer. I am told that in the Turtle mountains somewhat similar flights are seen.

ACCORDING TO POLICE Reports New York has a new Ponzi. He is John Neville, and he has been arrested charged with the operation of a gigantic fraud conducted along lines somewhat similar to those used by Ponzi several years ago. Promising profits of 25 per cent per month in investments Neville is said to have received subscriptions sufficient to net him over \$100,000. His dividends were paid out of capital, but as most of his subscribers chose to reinvest their paper profits his capital was constantly increasing. He occupied palatial offices, and there is an element of humor in the fact that most of his office furnishings, tables, chairs, etc., were those which had been used during the last campaign at Republican and Democratic headquarters. Neville had bought them at auctions which were held some time ago.

LAST SUMMER THE HERALD published an indignant letter from a subscriber who complained bitterly of the inaccuracy of the published weather forecasts, for which he held the paper responsible. For some time, he said, the forecasts had persistently indicated "probable showers" for North Dakota, whereas there had not been a drop of rain in his locality for weeks. It was quite pointedly suggested that such alleged inaccuracy was due to some malignant purpose on the part of the paper.

IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND that there will be disappointment when there is held out the prospect of rain and rain failed to come—provided, of course, rain is desired. But it was pointed out at that time that there had been no inaccuracy whatever in the forecasts. There had been indicated only "probable showers," and showers, as is well understood, are freakish, fitful things, usually covering small areas and exceedingly variable in volume. It was pointed out further that during the period mentioned showers had occurred, as predicted, in many sections of the state, with scarcely a county entirely missed. It happened that the subscriber's immediate territory had been left dry.

OVER THE LAST WEEK-END snow or rain was predicted for North Dakota, but not a flake fell during that time in Grand Forks or the vicinity. Was the forecast wrong? It was not. Snow fell in liberal quantities throughout the southern and southwestern counties of the state. Oakes had inches of snow, the heaviest single snowfall at that point since weather records were kept there. Roads west of Bismarck were blocked, and the people in the capital were digging themselves out of deep drifts. Certainly there was snow in North Dakota, although in this vicinity we got none of it.

IN THE NATURE OF THINGS weather forecasts must be general. The weather bureau, which is responsible for the forecasts, cannot make trustworthy estimates for small localities. The best that science can do is to indicate the approach of an air current bringing with it rain, or snow, or clear weather, and the probable passage of that air current over a large, but vaguely defined area. North Dakota measures 350 miles from east to west and about 200 miles from north to south. In such an area several kinds of weather may occur at the same time. Weather does not observe state lines, much less county or section lines.

THIS PARAGRAPH FROM A recent statement by Sinclair Lewis may contain something of interest to beginners in the art of writing:

"I HAVE NEVER BEEN A propagandist for anything, nor against anything save dullness. A good job—and not for gold would I recommend it as a career to any one who cared a hoot for the rewards, for the praise, for the prizes, for the embarrassment of being recognized in the restaurants, or for anything at all save the secret pleasure of sitting in a frowzy dressing gown, before a typewriter, exulting in the small number of hours when the words (noble or ribald, it doesn't matter) come invigoratingly out in black on white, and the telephone doesn't ring, and lunch may go to the devil.

"And as for the recipe for writing, all writing, I remember no high-flown counsel but always and only Mary Heaton Vorse's gibe, delivered to a bunch of young and mostly incompetent hopefuls back in 1911;

"The art of writing is the art of applying the seat of the pants to the seat of the chair."

OF THE WORLD'S GREAT hymns there are few, if any, that were written for a particular occasion, with the thought in mind that they were to be used in celebration of a particular event. One hymn written under such circumstances has been selected to be sung in Presbyterian churches throughout the world in connection with the celebration this year of the 100th anniversary of Presbyterian foreign missions. It is as follows:

GOD OF YEARS, THY LOVE

hath led us. Thou hast been our bulwark strong,
Wall of fire against the wicked, Sword of power against the
wrong. Thou hast blest of old Thy servants
As they bore Thy message far; We who follow in their footsteps Evermore their debtors are.

Onward lead, O King Eternal,

Lo, we heed Thy high command, Bear good news to every people,
Far and near, in every land, Thine they are, Thy love doth seek them,
Thou wouldst bring them to the
light; Lead us on till darkness brightens,
On, till faith is lost in sight.

Lead us forth, a church united, Strong, courageous, in Thy might.

Lo, the fields are white with harvest,
Sheaves to garner ere the night. One our purpose, One our Leader, Thus Thy church shall never fail; Lead us on, O King
Eternal,
So shall Love, world-wide, prevail.

THIS HYMN WAS SELECTED from more than 200 entries in the centennial hymn contest held during the winter by the Presbyterian board of foreign missions. -Its author, Dr. Jay Glover Eldridge, of Moscow, Idaho, is professor of German language and literature and dean of the faculty at the University of Idaho. The hymn is to be sung to the tune "Hymn of Joy," by Beethoven.

WE ARE ALL PROUD OF OUR new highways, broad, straight, with easy grades and hard, smooth surfaces that make travel at any season and in almost any sort of weather. But the old road had pleasant features of variety that the modern road does not possess. In achieving efficiency we have, to some extent, sacrificed picturesqueness. Appreciation of this fact inspired these lines by a minor poet in the New York Times:

ROADS.

By Elspeth Honeyman Clarke.

An English road, through English
downs, Bends back to meet the little
towns. But a French road runs from sea
to sea, Straight as a tree of Lombardy.

A Spanish road will pause and
climb, And German highways march in
time.

American roads go swift and wide Across a world to the farther side.

But the winding road of yesterday Is pushed aside by a main highway.

And all the wonders it brought to
men, The new road takes away again.

IN THIS PRAIRIE COUNTRY, and in much of the timbered country of the west, effort was put forth, with considerable success, to avoid the winding road at the time of settlement. Wherever possible roads were laid out along surveyors' lines with mathematical rigidity, but in the eastern states they paid little attention to straight lines, and roads followed the course of least resistance. The road followed gracefully the bend of a river or the crest of a ridge, and at every turn a new vista was revealed. Not always was the vista a pleasing one, but often it had possibilities. We miss much of that in these days of paved highways. But, when driving 70 miles an hour you can't look at the scenery, anyway.

SEVERAL COMMUNICATIONS have been received, by letter or telephone, identifying the lines beginning "I come, I come! you have called me long," as the first stanza in the poem "The Voice of Spring," by Felicia Hemans. The poem was included in many of the old school readers.

IN SUBMITTING HER Identification of Mrs. Hemans' lines Mrs. C. B. Ingebretson of Lakota writes:

"A few years ago you published a parody on a well-known poem, bringing out characteristic features of the North Dakota winds. I liked it so well I sent it to a friend, and it was not returned. Now I want it very much, but do not know where to look for it. The lines which Mrs. Ingebretson wants were written during a period of dust storms three years ago, and are as follows:

SPRING BREEZE—1934 MODEL. I come from north, or north-by-
west,

Or east and south together; I rouse the people from their rest
To give them dusty weather.

I puff, I blow, I whirl, I scream, I make a deafening clatter;
I dry up every puny stream, At every door I batter.

I come in gusts, day after day, Both up and down the river,
And nothing checks my dusty way, I blow and blow forever.

I'm full of fun and comic tricks, And every sort of joking;
I strip a chimney of its bricks, And leave the furnace smoking.

I lift a farm up from its place
Near Minot or Lakota, And send it whirling off through space
To land in South Dakota.

I dim the sun at high noontide I slack my blustering never,
And on my wings black furies ride, For I blow on forever.

With force and skill I penetrate Through every crack and cranny
And housewives I infuriate In ways that are uncanny.

And so I go my changeless way, Untiring, fierce and gusty;
I care not who may bid me stay, I'm mercilessly dusty.

I scatter, scatter, as I blow,

And clog each shrunken river; For days may come, and days may go,
But I blow on forever.

THAT JINGLE IS A PARODY, Who can tell on what, and where the original poem is to be found?

And let's hope that this spring there will be no occasion to write another on the same subject. Anyway, they seem to have had the dust laid In South Dakota.

MANY OF THE CUSTOMS Associated with the observance of Easter are of such antiquity and such diverse origin that it is impossible to trace them. They include survivals of some of the practices of primitive pagans to herald the advent of spring as well as those of the Christian church to celebrate the Resurrection. These have become so interwoven that they can scarcely be separated. Long before the Christian era the egg was used as the symbol of life and fertility, and that symbolism is now represented in the Easter egg. Flowers mark the opening of spring, and for ages spring flowers have been among the accompaniments of Easter. The Resurrection is appropriately celebrated in spring, when nature awakes from her long sleep, and life again proclaims its victory over death. Christian and pagan symbols have thus become interwoven in the observances of this day, and the older symbols have been adapted to the uses of the modern church.

EASTER MAY BE SAID TO BE the keystone of the whole structure of church festivals, for most of the other festivals of the church are dated with reference to Easter. The fact that these festivals are "movable" has been the cause of great inconvenience, because, contrary to a belief that has come acceptance, the weather man pays no attention to the date of Easter, whose date has arbitrarily been fixed by man.

AFTER LONG Consultation and much debate the church fathers decided many years ago that Easter should be the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21, the day on which the sun crosses the equator on its northern journey. Thus Easter may be as early as March 22 or as late as April 29, a difference which makes for a wide variety of Easter weather. If the new world calendar is adopted Easter will always be on April 8, and the other church festivals will be dated accordingly. Eminent church and secular authorities have agreed on fixing that date of Easter when the new calendar is adopted.

CELEBRATIONS OF LONG standing are held in many parts of the world, combining recognition of the coming of spring with commemoration of the Resurrection. Plays and pageants mark Passion Week and culminate in expressions of joy over the great even in Christian history. The most famous Passion play, of course, is that at Oberammergau, but that is not performed in Passion Week. The Oberammergau Passion play was established in consequence of a vow made by the inhabitants of the little German village as an expression of gratitude for relief from the plague of 1633. It has been remodeled both as to words and music and is given during the summer of each year whose number is a multiple of 10.

RATHER CURIOUSLY A Passion play that is older by almost a century is given during Holy week by American Indians in Arizona. This Easter marks the 400th anniversary of a ceremonial observed by the Yaqui Indians in which Christian symbols are intermingled with what are left of the ancient pagan dances and chants of the tribe. Ever since the first Spanish padres came through northern Mexico and told the warring Yaquis of the Crucifixion the Indians have enacted the story, embellished by their primitive rites.

THE PLAY WAS GIVEN THIS year at a little village two miles from Tucson. Its climax is a weird dance lasting three days and nights until Easter morning breaks. During this time Indian youths pound tom-toms and women wail. No attention is given to accuracy in dress. Judas wears a mask like the papier-mâché heads in a carnival. Peter is attired in overalls. Roman soldiers carry swords of mesquite. The dancers, half naked, covered with paint and wearing deer horns, shriek and howl as they march along the road to Calvary.

ETHEL WOODS, OF FOREST River, identifies the poem of which "Spring Breeze—1934 Model" is a parody, as "The Brook," published in many of the old readers. The identification is correct, but I neglected to ask more specifically for the poem of which "The Brook" is a part. Tennyson's familiar lines are always published as an independent poem, as they should be, but in fact the poem sings its way through a longer poem which bears the same name, and which one never sees except in bound volumes of the poet's works. The poem which serves as the setting of the more familiar lines is the story of a romance which begins: Here by this brook we parted; I to the east And he for Italy—too late—too late.

MISS WOODS ALSO WANTS to know who should be blamed for Juniper appearing among the planets in John Hix's "Strange as it seems" department. I don't know whether Mr. Hix or the compositor is responsible for the appearance of this new planet and the disappearance of our old friend Jupiter, and it is now too late to find out. However, the astronomers are continually finding out new things about the universe, and perhaps this is one of them.

THOSE TULIPS KEEP ON growing, regardless of weather, and their behavior is a striking example of persistence against unfavorable conditions. The tiny shoots, about the size of a pencil point, which first appeared, have pushed their way upward and have expanded into leaves an inch broad, although they still cling quite close to the earth. Hard freezing does not discourage them, even though it curls and browns the edges of the leaves. My guess is that such a long and hard struggle with the weather impairs the vitality of the plants, and that while blooming is earlier in such a location, plants will be stronger if grown farther from shelter, where early growth is not forced.

FOR SOME TIME IRIS IN many sections of the city has been making growth. A few warm days will bring pasque flowers into bloom. These flowers, variously known as sand flowers, crocuses and anemones, may often be found blooming close to a snowbank. They are less numerous since most of the original sod has been broken, but there are some hills about 10 miles east of Crookston on which masses of them grow when the season is favorable.

IN CONTRACTS AND CASH the Dionne quintuplets are said now to be worth about a million dollars, which is a right tidy sum. If they had not been placed under proper guardianship probably some or all of them would have been dead by this time, and the people who have managed their affairs have shown shrewd business sense in publicizing them. If they had been shown as side-show freaks and lived through it the novelty would have worn off in a few months and some thrifty manager would have absorbed most of the gate receipts.

WASHINGTON, D. C. HAD A frost scare just before Easter, and, for the first time smudge pots were used in the nation's capital. Unseasonably warm weather had caused premature development of the buds of the Japanese cherry trees which line the drive along the Tidal Basin, and then the temperature dropped to a couple of degrees below freezing. Many barrels of oil were burned to save the blossoms, and the effort seems to have been successful.

THIS SUPREME COURT Disturbance may be traced in part to the aloofness and solemnity of the court itself. The judges are, or once were, human beings, but their official manner gives no evidence of that fact. They have not kept step with the slap-stick tendencies of the period which express themselves so freely in jazz, swing and wise-cracks. How different it would have been if Justices Hughes and Sutherland, for instance—who are mentioned in this connection because of their whiskers—had gone on the air occasionally with bedtime stories and a little refined comedy. A few little touches like that would have gone a long way to bring the court close to the people. Instead, the justices have wrapped their cloaks around them and refused to crack a joke even when, at times, the temptation to do so much have been great. A good comedian or two could do a lot to ginger up the court.