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retive o'clock noon
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thoroughly compe
for the installation
units and wiring
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John's. Forms to
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The words "In-
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**Black Cats,
Ladders and Luck.**
SUPERSTITIONS WITH "SAFETY
FIRST" ORIGINS.
Ask ten people why they are hor-
rified at the idea of spilling salt, and
nine of them will admit that they think
it is unlucky, but do not know the
reason. It is the same with most of
our superstitions, many of which are
as old as the human race.
Salt is one of the necessities of life,
and to eat it in a man's house in the
East is to-day a sign of friendship, as
it was in the days of Abraham. If you
refuse to eat his salt you offer him
the deadliest insult, while the ac-
cidental spilling of it could easily be
mistaken for a wilful act, and might
cause a clumsy man his life.
Why You Say "Your Health!"
If, however, he picked up a pinch
and threw it over his left shoulder he
signified that the spilling had been un-
intentional.
The idea that it is unlucky to walk
under a ladder was undoubtedly
started and encouraged by early build-
ers in self-defence. People passing
under a ladder can easily bring it and
the man upon its rungs crawling to
the ground by knocking against it
accidentally, but if they walk outside
they can do little harm.
Why is it considered unlucky to
pass on the stairs? Simply because
in the old days you never quite knew
who was not your enemy. A man com-
ing downstairs had an enormous ad-
vantage over one going up; hence
passing on the stairs became un-
popular.
Drinking healths had a very similar
origin. If your host let you drink alone
you could not be sure the draught was
not poisoned, but you could feel if he
drank liquor from the same bottle.
The words "Your health" were his
guarantee of good faith.
In country districts people cross
their fingers to avert evil. When
going so they are making the sign of
the Cross, used for nearly two thou-
sand years to ward off evil spirits.
The same idea is behind touching
wood after making a boast.
Thirteen is supposed to be the un-
luckiest of numbers. In ancient times
it was quite the reverse! Men in those
days always counted in dozens, and it
was customary to add one "for luck."
The baker's dozen is a modern sur-
vival. The present belief that thirteen
has a harmful influence comes from
the Last Supper, when Judas Iscariot
was the thirteenth at table and the
first to rise from the meal.
Why should not three cigarettes be
lighted from one match. This super-
stition is an Oriental one. In parts of
the Near East three wax tapers are
placed by a deathbed, and three lights
are held to be a sign of death.
Why, again, is it considered unlucky
to see the new moon through glass?
Moon-worship is one of the oldest
forms of religion, and the new moon
as the symbol of reviving life was so
sacred that whole tribes would as-
semble waiting for it to appear. Any-
one who saw it through glass must
have been indoors, and therefore ab-
sent from the sacred ceremony of
welcome.
The reason why black cats should
be held to bring luck is not apparent
at first, for they were regarded as the
spirits of witches, and witches were
burnt alive when caught. The truth is
that they were undoubtedly held to
represent evil spirits that might bring
ill-luck, but if an evil spirit walked
harmlessly into your house and was
disposed to accept a saucer of milk in
the most friendly way, it was a sign
that he would do you no harm.

Romance of Rubber.
Rubber has a long and glorious his-
tory, though curiously enough was
first heard of in a childish game of
"ball," played by the natives of Mexico
in 1500. They used a hard black ball
of great resiliency.
Spanish explorers who witnessed
this game learnt from the natives that
garments could be made waterproof
by the addition of rubber. On return-
ing to Spain their discovery was ridi-
culed.
It was the English chemist, Priest-
ley, who first called the substance
"rubber," and showed that it could
erase pencil marks.
Later it was discovered that solid
rubber could be "masticated," and so
made plastic enough for rolling into
"sheets" containing additional ingre-
dients.
Tapping the Trees.
It was found, however, that this
process detracted from rubber's nat-
ural elasticity, so further researches
were made. Then it was discovered
that "vulcanization" restored elastic-
ity to rubber, and so we were provid-
ed with vulcanized or "cured" rubber
—a more useful substance in every
way than the original raw material.
The best rubber is known as "plan-
tation rubber," and originally this
species came from the Amazon Val-
ley. Nowadays, however, there are
large plantations in Ceylon, Malaya,
the Dutch East Indies, Borneo, and
Indo-China.
These supplies are chiefly owing to
the prompt action and resource of Sir
Henry Wickham, who, after many ad-
ventures, finally got the seed home to
Kew Gardens, whence a number of

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tic
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HARD, medium, and soft
bristles; adults, youths,
and children's sizes. For sale
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Structures of Stars.
Dr. J. S. Plunkett, director of the
Dominion Observatory at Victoria,
British Columbia, who startled the
scientific world a year ago by the dis-
covery of a star ten thousand light
years distant from the earth, an-
nounced he has proved that stars bil-
lions of miles away are the same
atomic structure as the earth. Dr.
Plunkett's recent observations with
his telescope, one of the largest in-
struments in the world, show that the
atom forms the unit of construction
for the world universe, he declares.
This discovery will be made the sub-
ject of a special treatise to be cir-
culated among astronomers all over
the world. The theory which Dr. Plun-
kett claims to have proved has been
established by scientists for some
years. Now he has actually measur-
ed atoms on distant bodies, thus pro-
ving the theory, he says. Only astron-
omers and masters of astro-physics
can understand the system used in
measuring the atoms of stars, he ex-
plains. The measurements were made
by analyzing the light coming from
the staral bodies.
MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR WAITS.

THE STAR MOVIE--Newfoundland's Leading Picture House.
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TO CLOSE OUT THE BALANCE OF THE TICKETS IN THIS SWEEP
A Big Show is Arranged for To-night
With the assistance of MR. KARL TRAPNELL, MR. HICKEY and MR. DAY in his
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AND A BIG PARAMOUNT SPECIAL:
"Her Husband's Friend," in Six Parts
FEATURING ENID BENNETT and a most INTERESTING URBAN CLASSIC.
To every patron a FREE TICKET in the fivepence will be given. Admission 30 cents.
This is some show, it's worth while attending. Be with the crowd.
Look out for "BLOOD AND SAND." All others stand back. Valentine the great.
FOLLOW THE CROWD TO THE STAR MOVIE.

There are 4 grades of roofing felt selling in Newfoundland,
"BARRETT'S" is guaranteed the highest grade.
"Barrett's" 1, 2 and 3-ply felts have been in use in Newfound-
land for more than 50 years.
The best roof known in America is a "Barrett" roof, "Barrett's"
felt ONLY is used in putting on a "Barrett" Roof. Ask any Architect.
"Barrett" 1, 2 and 3-ply felts are really made of felt saturated
with genuine coal tar--the 2 and 3-ply felts have a layer of coal
tar pitch between each ply.
"Barrett's" felts are made to give good wear, therefore they cost more
than roofings made of paper saturated with diluted asphalt.
If you use "Barrett's" felt instead of common felt, a new roof covering
for your house may cost you \$2.00 more for the whole roof.
Roofs covered with "Barrett's" felt are secure, the extra cost of one
or two dollars (for the entire roof) is money well spent.
Which felt do you intend to use?
Architects, Builders and Contractors prefer "Barrett's" Felt.

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young plants were dispatched to In-
dia.
To-day nine-tenths of the world's
production of raw rubber is derived
from these plantations, which produce
400,000 tons annually.
The trees are not ready for tapping
until they have reached a height of
from eighteen to twenty inches--five
to six years after planting. Tapping
opens the cells which harbour the sap,
and starts the flow of the milk, which
continues for half an hour. The milk
trickles down a vertical channel
made for it in the bark, and then
drops into a receptacle placed at the
base of the tree.
A little acetic acid is added, and the
resulting "junk" throws off a watery
liquid or serum. Washed and dried,
it next appears as the "pale crepe" of
commerce.
Methods of Treatment.
Another method of treatment gives
us the "smoked sheet" variety. Those
who have examined rubber at this
stage have found it hard to believe
that it provides employment for many
thousands of men in this country.
Such is the fact, however, and at Fort
Dunlop, near Birmingham, may be
seen stacks of this rubber waiting to
be "compounded" and manufactured
into tyres.
The "crepe" or "smoked sheet"
rubber is kneaded between hollow
rollers, heated by steam. When the
rubber is plastic, other ingredients are
added. This comes "calendering,"
which turns the rubber into a con-
tinuous sheet. From these sheets the
vast majority of rubber articles are
made.

Green Island, Catalina.
ALTERATION IN CHAR-
ACTER OF LIGHT.
Lat. 48 30 15 N.
Lon. 53 02 20 W.
Notice is hereby given that
the 4th Order White Light now
exhibited at Green Island, Cata-
lina, will be changed to a Group
Flashing White Light, giving a
Triple Flash every 15 seconds.
This change will go into ef-
fect about the 15th June, 1923.
W. W. HALFYARD,
Min. Marine & Fisheries,
Dept. of Marine & Fisheries,
St. John's, Newfoundland,
12th May, 1923. may14.31.00d

**Copeland and Ralston
Democrats Choice.**
WASHINGTON—(Canadian Press)—
Senator Copeland, of New York, the
new Democratic member of the Sen-
ate from that state, is declared to be
a possible dark horse in the demo-
cratic presidential situation. In re-
cent weeks, a great deal of talk has
been going the rounds that Senator
Copeland stood an excellent chance
of being the compromise nominee on
whom the democrats would settle at
their national convention in 1923. The
truth of the matter is that neither of
the leading figures in the democratic
presidential contest can see his way
clear at this time to the nomination.
In the democratic convention, a two-
thirds vote for nomination is required
and one more than a third of the de-
legates can block a nomination. The
bitter experience of Champ Clark at
Baltimore in 1912 when he galloped
nomination after getting more than
a majority of the convention is in

point. Senator Underwood of Alabama
has powerful support and so has for-
mer Secretary of the Treasury, Wil-
liam G. McAdoo. But each also has
strong opposition and the way is far
from clear to the nomination of either.
Eventual settling on a compromise
on some comparatively new man
seems not at all improbable. In fact,
it would be a natural outcome of the
difficulties in which the democratic
convention will find itself. In search-
ing about for a compromise nominee,
Senator Copeland, who was a success-
ful physician before he was in polit-
ics, will be considered. Senator
Ralston of Indiana is another senator
who will be weighed if there is a com-
promise movement. So will several
other senators. Among them are
Senator Garter Glass, of Virginia,
Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, new
Democratic leader in the Senate, and
Senator Owen of Oklahoma.

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need not be neglected any
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Used in combination with
Hudnut's Skin and Tissue
Cream, it has a marvelous
tonic effect on the skin, and
imparts a lovely tone. You
will be delighted with Three
Flowers Vanishing Cream,
and the odor is all that could
be desired—dainty and dis-
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