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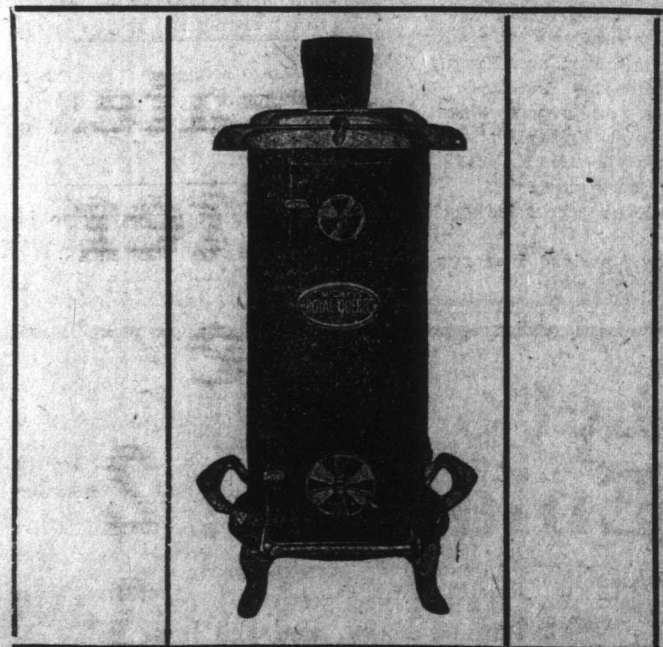


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### A Sin to Kiss Your Wife!

WHY THE JAPANESE THINK KISSING IS OUTRAGEOUS.

If you wished to outrage the feelings of the average man and woman in Japan you could do so most easily by kissing in public. This "unclean and immodest habit," as the Japanese term kissing, is thoroughly repugnant to the Japanese nation, so much so that the wonderful statue, "The Kiss," by Rodin, the great French sculptor, sent to Japan for exhibition by courtesy of the French Government, has been placed in a public park with a huge bamboo screen around it, so that the sensibilities of the public may not be shocked.

#### When Lovers Meet.

The statue has been completely shut off from sight upon the authority of the Prefect of Police in Tokio, who issued the following statement:—"Kissing is a custom entirely foreign to Japan, and it is undesirable that it should be introduced into our country. It is unclean, immodest, indecorous, ungraceful, and likely to cause the spread of disease."

Officials throughout Japan are unanimous in this opinion, and, incredible as it may seem, all kissing is eliminated from films, no matter whether or not the story has a love theme. By ingenious manipulation of the film the heads of the lovers are kept apart so that they look most incongruous. In some cases it has been found impossible to exhibit great film successes owing to the difficulty of eliminating all the kissing.

The ordinary method of salutation in Japan is by nodding the head slowly and gravely. In greeting a person of distinction or an honored guest the Japanese kneel and hit their heads on the floor!

Between Japanese of opposite sexes the greatest approach to familiarity ever seen is a light patting on the back. This is occasionally indulged in between husbands and wives who are extremely fond of one another, and sometimes between lovers. Nothing resembling an embrace is ever seen. If you kiss your sweetheart or your wife you are risking social ostracism. An eminent Japanese has declared he would consider it an insult and a sin to kiss his wife.

The Japanese hold that it is not natural, but arose in the past among some degraded group of Europeans seeking a new form of pleasure. It is true, they add, that it has become an almost instinctive custom among Europeans and Americans, but nevertheless it is not instinctive in the whole human race. It is unknown to Japanese who have not lived among foreigners. Most African tribes, the people of Polynesia and Madagascar, and natives of Patagonia and Greenland are similarly ignorant.

The principal arguments used by the Japanese against the introduction of the kiss into their country are that it is an unedifying spectacle, and that it is unwholesome and dangerous from the point of view of public health. They hold that there is no other part of the body so heavily charged with germs and infectious matter as the average human mouth. There is also no part of the body so apt to receive fresh infection, since by excessive and abnormal eating we destroy the secretions which normally protect us against infections. Some Japanese doctors say that a large number of the diseases from which Europeans suffer are spread by kissing.

It may be pointed out, in refutation of at least one of the above-mentioned arguments against kissing, that it is not a bad habit acquired in comparatively modern times. The Bible frequently refers to the kiss as a pledge of affection between members of families and friends, and one Greek poet tells us creation began with a kiss.

Whether the Japanese are right or wrong, however, one thing seems certain—Japan is no place for a honeymoon couple!

Wide bands of fur used just above the hem give the fashionable tunic effect to slim frocks.

### Burns!

Apply Minard's at once. It acts as a coolant, irritant and gives quick relief.



### Changing Eton

LANGUAGES AND SCIENCE INSTEAD OF CLASSICS.

"Eton is now taking itself much more seriously than when I was a boy here nearly 50 years ago." This is the opinion of Mr. L. S. R. Byrne, for 35 years assistant-master at Eton, who has retired.

"In my days as a boy at Eton," he told a Daily Mail reporter, "very little serious work was done in any branch except classics. Mathematics and modern languages hardly existed; now, only about 15 per cent. of the boys at the top of the school are taking classics. The rest concentrate on natural science, modern languages, history, and mathematics."

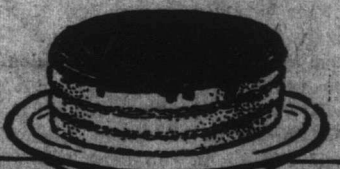
"The irresponsible aristocrats who formerly lived aimless lives as country squires now adopt farming and the professions as careers."

"Another remarkable change is that instead of practically all the masters being clergymen now only 7 out of 70 enter the Church. My own tutor would have been horrified to be seen smoking before his boys, but now masters are expected to lead ordinary lives. They have more control, because authority is no longer obliged to vest itself in humbug."

### Deadly Soil

At a recent inquest it was stated that most of the lockjaw cases treated at the London Hospital come from Essex, where the soil is apparently suited to the germ. Actually, all soils are the breeding ground of disease germs.

In the New Forest there is a species of mould, used in archaic cultivation, that is well known among gardeners as being dangerous. It contains microbes which, on obtaining access to the blood, set up a peculiarly virulent form of septic poisoning from which recovery is unlikely. Similarly, what is known as "asaka pest," a fine vegetable loam found in certain Midland districts, carries germs equally potent. Many nurserymen will handle it only with gloves.



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### Thrills on

#### Telephone Poles

EXCITEMENT OF A LINEMAN'S LIFE.

Climbing a telephone pole does not look either exciting or dangerous, but occasionally things happen to the telephone man which unpleasantly reiterate any monotony there may be in his life.

Some telephone poles are as tall as sixty feet, a huge drop should an accident occur. A lineman was once climbing such a pole by the foot rests, and, being an old hand, was shifting a hand and a foot together for greater speed. As he reached for the last step, the rest under his foot broke, leaving him hanging on by one hand. He completed his job, though a little shaky. Nowadays, he moves either a hand or a foot—never both at once. He often thinks of what would have happened if the rest had broken while his hand instead of his foot was on it.

#### Fell Among Thorns.

Linemen often use climbing irons consisting of stout spikes strapped to the leg. A wireman had once reached the top of a forty-foot pole, when the strap broke. His hands lost their grip, but the other spike remained in long enough for him to turn him upside down before he began to fall. He broke no bones, but he was received by a thick thorn hedge. For the next two hours he was pulling out thorns, stating forcibly the while his views on broken straps.

An experienced lineman once ascended to a hospital window to repair an insulator fixed close to it. Those below saw him reach the window and immediately fall backwards, though only to a flat roof ten feet below. Hastily they ascended to find him in a dead faint, though only bruised by his fall. On coming round, he explained that, glancing through the window as he got to the sill, he had found an operation in progress.

Working inside the hall of an asylum, a wireman had reached the inner sill of a roof window by means of a long ladder. The sill was only a foot wide, but as his nerves were good he stood on it to get at the wires.

Blown Through A Window. As he worked, he heard a faint scraping noise, and found that a powerful lunatic had moved the ladder just out of reach. So on the foot-wide sill the telephone man stayed for half an hour, not quite sure whether he wanted the ladder moved back or not, lest the lunatic might be tempted to ascend. At the end of that time a feeble ring and his tormenter departed. The victim was rescued shortly afterwards by an attendant.

Telephone cables are often run in conduits underground. Sewer gas sometimes leaks into these, and men affected by it have to be brought round by artificial respiration.

This is not the only case of accident that may occur at ground level. A wireman working on a street box once made a short circuit on some power wires with his spanner. The explosion that followed blew him through the window of a chemist's shop.

### Tree That Gets Angry!

An explorer in the forests of Northern India has found a tree that gives an electric shock to anyone who touches it. The intensity of the shock varies with the time of day, the current being at its strongest at 2 p.m. Few people in this country realize the "extraordinary" properties with which Nature has endowed some trees. In Nubia, for example, there is a tree, the so-called "playa tree," a startling effect due to the boring of numerous insects at the base of the young shoots. The wind, playing through the tiny apertures, produces a series of flute-like notes.

A Canadian prairie tree is an infallible guide to travellers, the edges of its leaves always pointing north and south.

In Arizona there is a tree which, on being touched, actually ruffles its leaves and tries to scare off the intruder by emitting a sickening odour.

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### THE FRIENDLY ACT.



WALT MATON

Free from thoughts of grief or danger I was driving yesterday, when I overtook a stranger who looked weary and forlorn. And his glance was so beseeching, so pathetic was his grin, that I set

ed, catapulted through a fence. 'Twas a scene of stress and danger when the Lizzie overturned, and the poor, wayfaring stranger had his whiskers badly burned. "I am truly very sorry," I explained in grief and woe, "that my blamed besotted lorry threw a fit and acted so." But the man resumed his journey with no effort to console, and he hired a cheap attorney who has sued me for my roll. Henceforth I'll obey the sages who advise us to beware, as we drive our creaking stages, of the stranger and his snare.

Some slim frocks of the fashionable bengaline have "shingle" sides, thoreases.

### George Eliot

#### Letters Destroyed

LONDON, Oct. 1 (A.P.)—Hundreds of interesting letters from George Eliot to her niece, Miss Emily Susannah Clarke, of Thanet, have been destroyed as requested in the will of Miss Clarke, who died recently. A relative who burned the letters said that if given to the world they might have formed a remarkable contribution to literature, in addition to furnishing an intimate autobiography of the authoress.

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