

The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 7, 1926.

DISCIPLINE AND THE DOCTORS

The dispute between Sir William Arbuthnot Lane and the British Medical Association emphasizes the alteration in medical ideas which have been changing gradually and almost unperceived for some time, but lately with greater rapidity. It also throws the spotlight on the discipline exercised over even those who stand at the top of the medical profession.

Originally practitioners were healers pure and simple. A man fell sick and the doctors cured him to the best of their skill. With the increase of knowledge and research the doctrine of prevention rather than cure has assumed greater prominence. China, where the doctor was—and probably still is—paid only while the patient enjoyed good health, research the principle centuries ago.

The medical profession is by its very nature extremely jealous of its honor. Its utility is entirely dependent upon public confidence and it is has always justified that public trust. It insists, and rightly, on the highest and most rigid ethical standards. Some of its rules which direct the conduct of practitioners are extremely strict and probably nowhere in the world stricter than in Great Britain. Particularly is this so as regards the matter of advertising. The British Medical Association is the body responsible, among other things, for framing, revising and enforcing professional disciplinary rules and its reputation has always been that of fearlessness and non-discriminatory action against any doctor who may infringe the least of those regulations which go to make up the professional code.

Those particularly interested in health societies and kindred schemes for the dissemination of health rules and the advancement of elementary medical knowledge among the laity, as part of the general idea of preventive medical work, have long advocated the spread of information by those qualified to do so through the Press and by other means of publicity. While, broadly speaking, this is entirely unobjectionable, from the viewpoint of an organization such as the British Medical Association it obviously opens the door to practices coming perilously near to advertising.

For instance, Sir William Arbuthnot Lane has been extremely active along the line of health articles, and his photograph headed one entitled "The Athlete's Diet" which article appeared on the menu of 200 odd tea rooms. At the request of the British Medical Association the photographs were obliterated and apparently Sir William was asked for and furnished an explanation, which the British Medical Association does not consider satisfactory. Sir William is reported to have resigned from the association and the London Evening Standard says: "It is inconceivable that the British Medical Association could be of the slightest benefit to a man of Sir William Arbuthnot Lane's eminence. It is equally unthinkable that he would tolerate for a moment any interference with his personal liberties in regard to public health education which he advocates."

That is as may be, and furthermore it can be assumed that Sir William was inspired by the highest motives in acting as he did, and it can be granted that the great surgeon's reputation raises him above any need of advertisement. But if it were permitted in his case, would not others, to whom publicity would be of advantage, be sorely tempted to go and do likewise? How could the British Medical Association object to their so doing if it condone Sir William's offense, technical though it be?

An authority such as the British Medical Association is naturally conservative in outlook, yet it has never been accused of opposing progress or innovations having the good of suffering humanity as their aim. It is, however, well within its rights to resist, with every weapon at its command any lowering of the standard of professional conduct which it has set up, and in this it will have the support of all. Moreover, if it came to the final test, neither Sir William nor any other who attempted to resist the association could hope to succeed against a body representative of his whole profession. Doctors must look to discipline like others and, be it noted, it is very rare for a doctor to resist the authority of the British Medical Association.

"IF WE LIVE SO LONG"

The story of a man or woman who dies in his or her tracks possesses a thrill for the reader. Life is a battle from birth to death. It is the brave fighter who lives successfully—successful not always in the material sense, the odds may be too heavy, but successful in all that counts for the enrichment of character. The plucky fighter usually has one of two desires in regard to death. He wishes to die through to dignified old age or to die fighting. The latter is more spectacular. The finish is the climax: there is no anti-climax.

Perhaps that is why so many of us tend to cling to our harness overlong.

We continue to work beyond our period of utility. Kipling says of this:

That we outlive the impatient years and the much too patient friends!

And because we know we have breath in our mouth and think we have thought in our head, We shall assume that we are alive, whereas we are really dead."

And his advice is:

"Wherefore be free of your harness before, but being free, be assured, That he who hath not endured to the death from his birth he has never endured!"

We may lay aside the sword, but we must work to the end—not in the front line perhaps but wherever we may still give useful aid. The arm may fail, but a wealth of experience remains and this we may supply for the use, cheer and succor of younger combatants. Sometimes, however, it is permitted that we retain fighting strength into old age and then die in the thick of the battle.

Harry Lydard, seventy-eight years old and all his life a race driver, sat in his sulky nursing his horse along to win a heat. He threw up his hands and died. Death is the greater tragedy for those who still live. Can there be any doubt that Harry Lydard would have chosen any death other than that he died?

This idea of tattooed hogs is a pretty fancy. What could look more like human flesh than a nice pink porker? And, if the cannibals' name for their pet delicacy have any meaning, the taste must be very similar. Those who have inspected bristly, bristly word-bodies bared on lower deck or in barrack-room must have been struck by the wealth of imagination and sentiment displayed through indigo and pictorial designs of anchors, true lovers' knots, feminine appellations—often blurred to avoid subsequent offense—and portraits of beautiful and underdressed damsels. The notion of adorning piggy's ham with a picture of a beautiful girl is not new. It is a picture of a beautiful girl, the motto "Grunt and the world grunts with you" or the representation of a winsome little swan with rosy bath chaps is quite touching. And, since it is stated that the marks will remain after the knife and the scalding vat have done their worst, the effort should add a touch of picturesque brightness to our breakfast tables. The medium, however, by which the indelible record is effected sounds painful—numbers of graphophone needles protruding one-quarter of an inch and stuck smartly on the hog's back or side smacks of medieval torture. But it is necessary to suffer in order to be beautiful. Even pigs will realize that.

Others say the flying fishes do not fly because they cannot. The muscles about the base of the wing-like fins, though large and strong, are merely used to keep the wings extended and serve no other purpose.

PURE THEORY.

The sailor retorts that this is pure theory and not to be considered in the light of the observed fact that the wings are actually moved.

Both sides support their views with all sorts of arguments from the realms of biology, anatomy and marine mythology, and the discussion always comes to rest exactly where it started.

In their contentions both sides are partly right. It has been shown that flying fishes fly so far that their flight cannot be explained on the basis of the original impetus alone.

FINNS MOVE.

No one who has ever seen them at close quarters can doubt the movement of their fins. Therefore, while flying fish are mainly gliders, their flight is aided by the movement of their fins.

Flying-fishes are found in the warm seas everywhere. There are about 50 different kinds. Most of them are about a foot in length or rather less, but some kinds are a foot and a half long.

They often fly aboard ships when the sea is rough, and especially at night. One on a very stormy trip from Japan to Honolulu numbers came aboard, mostly at night. Our sailors were always on the lookout for them, as they are excellent as food.

If you cut a flying fish open in the dark its insides gleam with phosphorescent light coming from the numerous little luminous creatures of the sea which it has eaten.

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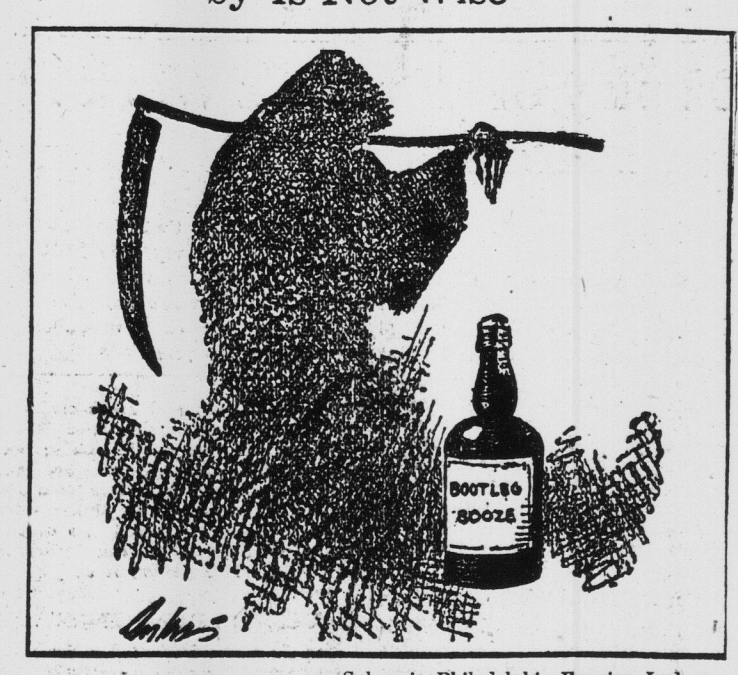
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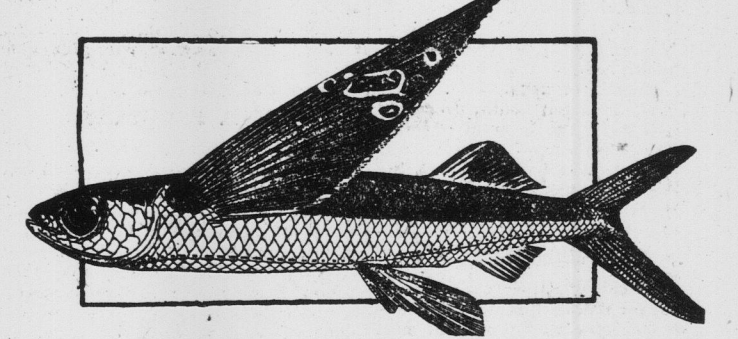
"—And Whosoever Is Deceived Thereby Is Not Wise"



—Sykes, in Philadelphia Evening Ledger.

Queer Quirks of Nature

IT'S A BIRD OF A FISH.



Flying Fish.

By AUSTIN H. CLARK

DO FLYING FISH really fly? Thousands of people every year ask this simple question. In fact it is always being discussed, and has always been under discussion ever since man first sailed the seas. Every sailor knows that flying fishes' wings move, for he has seen them move and heard them move. Nothing but the fish could move them, and therefore the sailor says that the fish does move them and consequently flies after the manner of a bird.

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POEMS I LOVE

"Night," by Joseph Blanco White.

HERE is one of the greatest sonnets in our language, and although the British author of it wrote several profound volumes on theological subjects, he will always be remembered for this single poem. White was born in Seville, Spain, in 1775, and died in Liverpool in 1841.

Mysterious Night! when our first parents knew Thee, from report divine, and heard thy name, Did he not tremble for this lovely Frame? This glorious canopy of Light and dew, Yet 'neath a curtain of translucent dew, Bathed the rays of the great setting Flame, Hesperus, with the Host of Heaven, And, lo! Creation widened on Man's view.

Who could have thought such darkness lay concealed Within thy voice, O Sun! or who could find, Whist flower and leaf and insect shout, That to such countless Orbs thou madest us blind!

Why do we then shun Death with anxious strife? If Light costs this deceive, wherefore not Life?

NEW NURSERY RHYME.

Stag a song of suspense (a nickel, though, would do); Four and twenty blackbirds (or starlings, just as true)— These here latter critters might compose a silly pie, But now—days there's noddin' much the cola we've named will buy!

THE snob is ashamed of his folks and everybody else is ashamed of him.

IT TAKES no special training to learn how to nurse a grievance.

"MY DEAR, I think I shall spend the night at my sister's," came his wife's voice over the telephone. "Do you care?"

"Not at all," he replied, heartily. "I'm going to Florida this winter to look at some land he bought from a friend of his."

A L.A. CAN-OPENERS

In day of olden times were bold Two loved a maid whose heart was cold. They met and had a long palaver And just to see which one would have her.

They held a hard-bodiled fencing bout And tried to cut each other out.

WE WOULDN'T mind how often our neighbors feel their player piano if they'd only change its diet once in a while.

Other Views

WALL STREET (St. Catharines Standard.)

Have the financial interests of Wall Street a stronghold on this country? Would a new government under Meighen submit to dictation from that quarter? As a matter of fact, it is incapable that the whole world practically is paying tribute to the barons of New York, but there is Canadianism strong enough in this Dominion to believe that we can liquidate our debts, maintain an economic independence and let Wall Street take care of itself.

DANGER IN THE WATER. (Le Nouvelliste.)

Our city (Three Rivers) has not had to lament for a long time so many drownings as in the last month. There is only one way to stop them; that is by exercising prudence. So long as our city is without public baths or a safe stretch of beach it is clear that the danger of drowning will remain. The authorities should, however, make an effort to prohibit absolutely access to dangerous places and particularly to those affected by deepening operations and which by that very reason offer greater risks. Parents have also a duty to perform; it is that of taking special care of their children. They should never allow the young folk to go bathing unless accompanied by a reliable supervisor capable of directing them to places where there is no danger.

PEACE AND PROSPERITY (Brooklyn Eagle.)

The country made the mistake in 1919 of thinking that peace could be turned on in the economic world as one turns on an electric light. Peace was a thing that had to mature. A railroad system had to be recast, labor difficulties had to be corrected, prices to be relieved and supply and demand to find their places. The country has since then moved towards a sound peace basis surely and steadily, but so gradually that the full extent of its gain was not felt until very lately.

LEATHER GOODS OF QUALITY

Full size extra deep HAT BOX, made of best quality black enamel, with heavy leather binding. Attractively lined with good quality cloth. Deep shirred pocket in back. Removable hat form. Polished brass lock and bolts. Substantial leather handle.

With tray . . . \$6.40. Without tray . . . \$5.25

HORTON'S Market Square

McClary's

Clean, Convenient, Dependable and Now Economical Electric Cooking

McClary has brought electric cooking into tens of thousands of homes. Women who never dreamed of enjoying the advantages of cooking and baking with electricity now use the McClary Stove.

You too will be delighted with a meal cooked with a McClary—and it's so economical—due to the exclusive SPEEDIRON Element which brings speed, lasting durability and absolute safety to electric cooking.

Get a demonstration at once, and see the SPEEDIRON in action.

THE McClary BUILDING 221-223 PRINCE WILLIAM STREET

Come In and Sit Down

Anytime You're Up Town

EXHIBITION VISITORS ESPECIALLY are cordially invited to drop in and rest a bit. Particularly do we want you to feel the comfort of these Kroehler Davenport Sets which give you a living room by day and a bedroom at night, doing away with the need of a spare room.

Glad to See You—Always

A. O. SKINNER -- 58 KING ST. Open Friday Nights. Close Saturday at One

F. A. Dykeman & Co.

THE SILK HOUSE OF THE MARITIMES

OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS

It is With Pleasure We Extend You an Invitation to Visit Our Store While in the City Attending the Big Fair

We cordially invite you to inspect our new Fall Stocks of Ready-to-Wear Silk Dress Goods, Hosiery, Gloves, European Jewelry, etc., and we want you to feel that our store is your headquarters.

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