

Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. 1
OCTOBER 4, 1903.David brings up the Ark—2 Sam. 2:1-12
Study vs. 1-12.

Introduction.—Having smitten his enemies, and returned to Zion, David most wisely took measures to make the capital of his kingdom the central place of worship for all the tribes. He doubtless knew Jehovah's promise to choose out of all the tribes a place to put His name (Deut. xii. 1-11). Therefore the ark of the covenant should be brought from its obscurity and placed in the city of the king. Thus did David inaugurate a genuine revival of religion.

The Ark.—The ark was a chest of acacia wood, two and one-half cubits (3 feet 9 inches) in length, and one and one-half cubits (2 feet 3 inches) in height as well as width, plated within and without with gold. The lid was of solid gold and was called the mercy-seat. Upon it were two golden figures of winged cherubim with their wings stretched out over the ark and their faces turned toward one another. Within the ark were deposited the two tables of stone engraved with the symbols of the law (Deut. x. 2). According to Hebrews ix. 4, the ark also contained Aaron's rod that budded and a golden pot of manna. It belonged in the holy of holies, the innermost room of the tabernacle, and was to be visited only by the high priest, and by him only once a year—the day of atonement. It was thus the most sacred symbol of the true religion.

Commentary.—For seventy years the ark, the central point of religious worship, had lain in partial neglect, away from the Moslem tabernacle at Shiloh. The sons of Eli had carried the ark from Shiloh into a battle against the Philistines, hoping that God would give them the victory for the sake of the symbol of His holiness. But God did not reward wickedness in that way. The Israelites were defeated, and the Philistines captured the ark, but the Lord would not permit them to retain it. Their idol Dagon fell before it. The people were smitten with severe sickness wherever the ark was sent. Finally it was restored to Israel, and set up in the Sorek valley near Gath, where it remained ever since.

1. The joyful procession (vs. 1-5). A great—former—gathering was at Hebron when David was crowned king. Thirty thousand—Representatives of the whole people. Notice the deep reverence in this phrase. The ark did not belong to David or Israel; it belonged to God, whose name is called—Better, as in R. "Which is called by the Name, even the name of the Lord of hosts." Dwelteth between the cherubim—"That sitteth upon the cherubim."

2. The ark, the symbol of God's presence, plural form of cherub. The cherubs represented God's presence.

3-5. They set the ark of God upon a new cart—This was contrary to the legal requirement (Num. x. 9), according to which it was always to be carried by the Levites and veiled and covered from sight. Gibeon—a hill of Kirjath-jearim, called by that name. Uzzah and Ahio—Probably the sons of Abinadab, who were set apart to keep the ark. Went before—While Uzzah walked at the side, Ahio went before the oxen to guide and manage them.

Before the Lord.—The ark, the symbol of God's presence, and those who went before the ark are referred to as going before the Lord. Instruments—The whole procession, David at the head, moved forward with music, song and dance (I Chron. xli. 9).

Uzzah's error (vs. 6-9). 6. Threshing-floor—A fixed threshing-floor, which did not change its place like the summer floor (Dan. i. 35); and therefore probably had a roof and a stock of fodder. Lange, Uzzah—took hold. His conduct indicated irreverence and presumption. The Levites were forbidden to touch the ark on pain of death (Num. iv. 15-20). Oxen stumbled—The roads were very rough in Palestine, and the ark was evidently about to be thrown from the cart when Uzzah took hold of it. Anger of the Lord—not passion, but rather indignation—that feeling which makes him hate sin and compel him to punish it. For his error—The error consisted of touching the ark, which, as the symbol of God's presence (I. Sam. iv. 7), none could look into. (Num. iv. 20; I. Sam. vi. 19), much less lay hold of it without peril of life. There he died—"The reasons for this severity were: 1. That it grew out of a procedure which was an direct violation of an express statute (Num. iv. 15-20) which required that the ark should be carried by Levites. 2. Uzzah, who had long had charge of the ark, should have been familiar with the law forbidding touch. 3. Uzzah stood in a representative position. What he did was public, in the sight of all the people.

8. Displeased—He was mortified and chagrined at the sudden and unexpected interruption of the triumphal procession. Made a breach—Violently interposed in a sudden stroke of divine judgment. "Terror, Perseverance, the word 'Perseverance,' conveyed to the Hebrews the idea of a great calamity. Afraid—Fear or terror followed his anger, lest the judgments of God were not yet ended and would be extended to himself and people. How shall, etc.—Had David asked this question sooner it would have been better. He now exhibits humility and admits his guilt.

III. The blessed household (vs. 10-12). Would not remove—Not for the present, fearing he might make some other mistake. House of Obed-edom—Very near the city. He was a Levite of the stock of the Kohathites, which was a branch of the family of Kohath—Lange. The Lord blessed, etc.—Josephus asserts that during this interval Obed-edom passed from poverty to wealth. David went, Read I. Chron., chapters 15, 16. David had taken three months to study the law, and now he was prepared to bring the ark to Jerusalem in a proper manner.

IV. The ark enters Jerusalem (vs. 13-15). This was the greatest event in David's life. It was a turning point in the history of the nation. At every few rods of the march the procession would halt, and there were religious services at every halt.

"The ark advanced like the chariot of a great conqueror, ascending the sacred hill of triumph."—Gellie.

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

David's life, up till the time of our lesson, had been almost a continual struggle for an existence. There had been times when he seemed on the sure road to success, prosperity and peace. These times, however, were only temporary and were followed by greater struggles and fiercer times than ever, but now he is firmly established in his kingdom. Is at peace with all his neighbors, has fortified Jerusalem as his permanent capital, and after having been three times anointed king, is at last a mighty monarch, and at the height of his power and popularity.

The tabernacle had also a varied history. Built by Moses from plans and specifications furnished by God Himself, it was intended to be a dwelling place for God. It had gone through the wilderness forty years under Moses, had been carried through Jordan and into Canaan under Joshua, and finds its first resting-place at Shiloh in the tribe of Ephraim. The first ark, which came to the tabernacle was the ark of the Philistines. From this time went into gradual decay in every way until the death of the priests by Saul (I. Sam. xli. 18), seemed to complete its doom. Its glory had departed (I. Sam. iv. 22; Ps. lxxviii. 60).

The ark was the most sacred object that the Hebrew possessed for God was supposed to dwell on the mercy-seat (I. Chron. xlii. 6). It had its holiness in the "holy of holies" and contained at first the two tables of stone, a pot of manna, and Aaron's rod that budded (Heb. ix. 4). It had always remained in the tabernacle until captured by the Philistines; and, when afterwards returned by them, it was not replaced in the tabernacle, and was never again returned to the old tabernacle, but remained at Beth Shiloh brought up by David to the new tabernacle at Jerusalem.

This bringing up of the ark of God was the greatest and most conspicuous religious act of David's life. This act was conducted by all concerned as the moving of God to his permanent resting place at Jerusalem.

Connected with this moving there are many things mentioned which show its great importance as a religious act. There was a great gathering of the people, including all Israel from Shiloh of Egypt even unto the entering of Horeb (I. Chron. xlii. 5). There was also a recall of all priests and Levites who had been scattered everywhere after the slaughter of Saul (I. Chron. xlii. 2). There was a great musical display, a great procession, great sacrifices and a great feast. David himself wore the priestly ephod, joined in the musical display, offered sacrifices, and himself blessed the people in the name of the Lord.

Some incidents connected with this event are entitled to notice: 1. The "new cart" shows us that God could have the first and best of everything. 2. The death of Uzzah for simply taking hold of the ark, and that evincing a good intention, shows us that there are no small things in the sight of God, and that he will not suffer men to regulate, control or suppress the manifestations of His power in the work of God. 3. The dancing and leaping of David was a direct manifestation of God's power and of his approval. The conduct and condemnation of Michai was a sad but emphatic lesson to this the most glorious day of David's life. After his public duties he returned to his house to bless his family and to receive their congratulations, but in the presence of reverence he received railing. She despised him in her heart (v. 16).



Mrs. Anderson, a prominent society woman of Jacksonville, Fla., daughter of Recorder of Deeds, West, says:

"There are but few wives and mothers who have not at times endured agonies and such pain as only women know of. I wish such women knew the value of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It is a remarkable medicine, different in action from any other I ever knew and thoroughly reliable."

"I have seen cases where women doctored for years without permanent benefit who were cured in less than three months after taking your Vegetable Compound, while others who were chronic and incurable came out cured, happy and in perfect health after a thorough treatment with this medicine. I have never used it myself without gaining great benefit. A few doses restores my strength and appetite, and in perfect health. I am a Vegetarian Compound will correct all such trouble at once by removing the cause, and restoring the organs to a healthy and normal condition."

The experience and testimony of some of the most noted women of America go to prove, beyond a question, that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will correct all such trouble at once by removing the cause, and restoring the organs to a healthy and normal condition.

WINS INSTANT AND CONSTANT FAVOR

WITH ALL JAPAN TEA DRINKERS.

"JUST SAY 'SALADA'!"

Ceylon GREEN TEA is pure, delicious and healthful. It is as far ahead of Japan tea as "SALADA" black is ahead of all other black tea. Lead packets only. 25c and 40c per lb. By all grocers.

Some Clever Tricks

The biograph, having depicted most things in the world of fact, has now found new realms to conquer in fiction.

It has become a juggler, or, as it might prefer to call itself, an "illusionist," and the uncanny feats it performs will soon put its more human competitors to shame.

It commences its performance by showing on the white screen two men seated at a small table. They seem to be carrying on an excited conversation, but, after some discussion, agree to make a wager on the cause of their dispute. Then each takes from his waistcoat pocket a tiny doll, dressed like a boxer ready for a championship match. The dolls are placed on the table, immediately "come to life," and commence sparring in the most scientific manner. The two Gullivers applaud the Lilliputian pugilists as they fight vigorously in a space that might be covered by a dinner table plate, and when a "knockout" blow on a head that is smaller than an early green pea, the conqueror and the conquered are picked up and suddenly replaced in the waistcoat pockets of their owners.

This clever effect, the manager of the biograph company explained, is obtained by the use of two films, which are exposed separately. First the two men seated at the table act their part of the performance in front of the camera. Then the biograph photograph is taken of a boxing match, and the two rolls of film are then skillfully placed together. The difference in the size of the boxers and the outcome is accounted for by the fact that the latter are placed much nearer the camera than the former.

But even more startling illusions than this can be produced. For instance, the biograph throws upon the screen a picture of a headless man standing by a huge egg, from which one might expect a healthy young rooster to emerge. Suddenly the egg cracks the egg with a mallet and discloses his missing head outside.

The face smiles recognition and allows the hands to take a few hundred rounds, and at last the head is put on no particular reason except to show that it is capable of further miracles. Then it looks longingly toward the neck and shoulders from which it has been severed, and is finally lifted into its place. The complete man then bows to the audience and disappears. It spoils a good illusion to describe too fully its inner mysteries, but it may be held that this effect is obtained by the judicious use of black velvet curtains. Black velvet, in fact, is the material from which the biograph manufacturer shapes his "invisible cloak," and the garment is quite as effective as the one the prince in Anderson's fairy tale wore when he set out to discover the wicked doings of the witch.

"The Prisoner's Dream" is the name of another piece of biographic juggling. The prisoner is shown in his cell asleep. On the forbidden wall a wall mysteriously appears. Gradually they become more and more sharply defined, though the wall can still be seen through the substance of the figures. The prisoner is recognized as that of the sleeping prisoner, the other is a girl. There is a quarrel, the flash of a weapon, and the girl falls limply to the ground. The "real" prisoner starts from his sleep and stares wildly at the dream picture of himself and his victim. The vision fades away and in its place the ghostly face of the girl floats across the wall.

The subject is somewhat morbid, but as an example of trick photography it is an extremely clever piece of work. The result is a picture, in the case of the boxers, by the combination of two films.

All the scenes are enacted in a studio illuminated by what is perhaps the most unique electric lighting apparatus in London—low effective can be judged when it is said that each of the thousands that compose a biograph moving picture only receives about one four-hundredth part of a second exposure. Actors of some considerable ability are required, for it is by no means an easy matter to tell a story entirely in pantomime, so that every one can clearly catch the meaning, and careful rehearsing is generally necessary before the actual photograph is taken. A really successful biograph "negatives" are of great worth striving for, as it may prove a little gold mine, for hundreds of films may be printed from it, and they are sent all over the world and exhibited before millions of people in the course of a few months. The trick photographs are certain to be popular, as the variety of subjects that may be produced is endless, and the wildest dream of the imagination can be realized. "The Arabian Nights" stories of magic carpets or which their lucky owners navigate the air, their savor when compared with those the biograph will make possible. — London Mail.

While man has approached the North Pole within two hundred and thirty-eight miles, no one has yet stood within less than seven hundred and seventy-two miles of the South Pole.

SHE HAD A SWEET REVENGE

Stout Woman Showed Her Neighbor She Could Kneel in Church.

"I don't mind being told I'm stout," she said. "I am stout and I might as well acknowledge it. But there is a wrong way to do everything, and there is a way of telling a person that he or she is stout which always grates and hurts. The speaker paused and looked over her auditors in a manner which plainly indicated that this remark was but the moral of a fable soon to follow. Nor were the listeners disappointed."

"Every once in a while," pursued the narrator—who there was no denying really was stout—"I haven't time to go all the way to my own church, and so drop in at the one across the street. There I always see Mrs. Prattleton. She weighs fifty pounds more than I do, if she weighs a ounce, but she seems so serenely unconscious of it and always greets me after the service with a honeyed smile and the remark: 'You're fatter than when you were here last.'"

"The repetition finally made me rather angry, so a month ago I got a seat just by her and watched her closely. There was a good deal of kneeling down, and I saw that I dreaded the attempt so much that the first time I didn't get upon my knees. Then I happened to notice Mrs. Prattleton. She wasn't kneeling either, and I suddenly realized that this was simply because she knew not when the time came to kneel again I got down the whole way, hard to it was, and then looked sharply at Mrs. Prattleton's face. She blushed and quivered, and at once tried her level best to follow my example. But she had to give it up. It was too late, she was too fat. From that day to this, she hasn't told me I'm growing stouter—in fact, she hasn't spoken to me at all."

A LOW RECORD OF SUCCESS in curing all sorts of cases, is held by Pain-killer over 60 years. Avoid substitutes. There is but one "Pain-killer"—Ferry Davis.

An Achievement.

Buffalo Commercial.

"I don't see why you should be so proud of winning that case," said the intimate friend, "You were plainly in the wrong."

"You don't understand these things at all," answered the lawyer. "The very thing that makes me so proud."

A Pleasant Duty.—"When I know anything worthy of recommendation, I consider it my duty to tell it," says Rev. Jas. Murdoch, of Hamburg, Pa. "Dr. Agnew's Catarrh Powder has cured me of Catarrh of the bladder in five years standing. It is certainly magical in its effect. The first application benefited me in five minutes. 50c."—9

DEFENCE OF AN OLD MAID.

A Japanese sociologist delivered a lecture at the University of Chicago the other day. Among other things, he said: "In Japan marriages are arranged by the parents of the interested parties, and we have no such galaxies of old maids as adorn institutions of learning in the United States. There are no old maids in Japan." So much the worse for Japan, says the Savannah News. Her civilization would be higher and more worthy of commendation if there were old maids.

For some peculiar and inexplicable reason, which is not well based and cannot be well defended, the old maid is wont to be derided and made the butt of shallow jokes, as if her epithet were a grievous fault. As a matter of fact, she is not appreciated and not understood. The old maid fills a considerable and important part in our society fabric, and we should sorely miss her if she were to take her leave. In many instances her celibacy is a matter of choice and self-sacrifice in order that she may devote herself to the service of others. It is the old maid who, with tenderest solicitude, mothers the motherless, nurses the sick and assists in burying the dead. It is the old maid, without frivolous notions and a constant angling for beaux, who brings brains and energy and high purposes to the training of the young in the ways that ought to go to make good men and good women. It is the old maid who, in case of emergency, can be depended upon to act with cool judgment and do or suggest the proper thing at the right time.

All old maids are assumed by the unthinking to be crusty and sour, and jokes are made about their fondness for cats and parrots. The assumption is a libel on the sisterhood. Woman for woman, there are probably more sweet-tempered old maids than wives; they have less to worry them, and their liking for pets is merely an evidence that their hearts are tender and in the right place. They are about the fondness for cats and parrots. There are no old maids in Japan, but there is in that country a code of morals that would be unbearable in a Christian country.

The Markets.

Toronto Farmers' Markets.

The receipts of grain to-day were above the average, and the changes in prices were slight. Wheat is easier, with sales of 500 bushels of white at 81½ to 82c, 800 bushels of red winter at 81½ to 82c, and 100 bushels of goose at 75c. Barley, unchanged, 3,000 bushels selling at 49 to 51c. Oats steady, 1,500 bushels of new selling at 32½ to 33c, and a load of old selling at 37½. Dairy produce firmer, with eggs selling at 20 to 22c per dozen, and choice dairy butter at 19 to 22c.

Hay is unchanged, with sales of 30 loads at \$9 to \$11 a ton. Straw easier, with sales of two loads at \$10 a ton.

Dressed hogs are unchanged, light selling at \$7.75 to \$8, and heavy at \$8.40. Wheat, white, bushel, \$1.12 to 82c; goose, 75c; red, \$1.12 to 82c; peas, 76 to 80c; oats, 37 to 37.12c; do., new, \$2.12 to 34c; barley, 49 to 51c; rye, 44c; hay, per ton, \$9 to \$11; straw, \$2.00; do., alkali, \$4.75 to \$5.50; apples, per bushel, 75c to 1.25; dressed hogs, \$7.00 to \$8; eggs, per dozen, 23 to 24c; butter, 17 to 18c; do., creamery, 20 to 22c; ch. k. m., per pair, \$3 to \$3.50; ducks, per pair, 7c to \$1; turk. y., per lb., 12 to 14c; potatoes, per bag, 50 to 60c; cabbage, per dozen, 40 to 50c; cauliflower, per dozen, 75c to \$1; celery, dozen, 35 to 40c; beef, forequarters, \$4.50 to \$5.50; hind-quarters, \$3 to \$4; medium, carcass, \$6 to \$6.40; choice, carcass, \$6.40 to \$7.50; lamb, yearling, \$7 to \$8; mutton, per ewe, \$5 to \$6.50; veal, per ewe, \$7.50 to \$8.

Toronto Fruit Markets.

Receipts of fruit were more liberal and prices easier in spots. Peaches, yellow, basket, 30 to 45c; do., Crawfords, 60 to 80c; pears, basket, 25 to 30c; do., Bartlett's, 40 to 50c; plums, 25 to 40c; grapes, small basket, 20 to 25c; do., large basket, 40 to 50c; apples, basket, 12 to 15c to 20c.

Oranges—Sorrento, 200's, 300's, per box, \$3.40; Valencia, style, 300's per box, \$3.40; Lemons, \$3.40 to \$3.50; Bananas, \$1.50 to \$2; Canteloupes, case, 65c to \$1; Watermelons, each 20 to 25c.

Vegetables—Potatoes 35 to 40c per bushel; tomatoes, 20 to 25c per basket; celery, 35c; egg plant, 25c per basket; green Spanish onions, \$2.75 to \$3 per large case, and 90c to \$1 for small; peppers, green, 40c; do., red, 75c per basket.

Leading Wheat Markets.

Following are the closing quotations at important wheat centres to-day:

	Cash.	Dec.
New York.....	83.00	83.00
Chicago.....	77.50	77.50
Toledo.....	81.34	81.34
Duluth No. 1.....	79	79.14

The Cheese Markets.

Cornwall, Sept. 26.—At the Cornwall Cheese Board to-day 1,891 boxes were boarded, and all sold by two lots at 11-14c to 11-7-8c.

London, Sept. 26.—Two factories offered 1,503 boxes; bids, 11c, 11-1-2c, 11-5-6c, 11-1-6c; 200 sold at 11-5-2c.

Bradstreet's on Trade.

Trade conditions at Montreal continue fairly satisfactory. The outlook is for quite a brisk sorting trade for the next couple of months. There have been some demands for renewals of paper, but owing to the excellent trade outlook, retailers have experienced little difficulty in this respect.

The sorting trade at Toronto continues quite active. The demand for domestic staple goods is greater than the supply in some cases and retailers will have to wait for some weeks for deliveries of certain lines. The market for staple goods is very firm. The demand from inland water points is now beginning to make itself felt.

At Quebec, weather conditions during the past week appear to have benefited general trade, both wholesale and retail, and the sales in the former are reported as large as this time twelve months ago.

Vancouver-Victoria reports from the Pacific Coast cities continue satisfactory. The demand for fall and winter goods is brisk and the prospects point to a steady demand for the next couple of months. The weather having become more settled and favorable for the harvest, there is a better feeling in trade circles at Winnipeg. A large lot of the crop will grade No. 1 Northern or less. Labor is well employed and the outlook for general trade for the balance of the year is encouraging.

Business at Hamilton, as reported for Bradstreet's this week, continues to show a fair amount of activity. Fall orders are coming to hand freely now, being stimulated by the strong markets and the cooler weather. The outlook for business is promising, based as it is on the good crops and the active demand for labor.

Business at London is not as active as it was last week when many buyers were attracted by the Western Fair, but orders are still numerous and the jobbing trade is busy shipping goods. Values are firm.

In Ottawa the volume of business in fall and winter goods continues to show a fair expansion. Conditions of trade are healthy and promising.

Why She Passed the Dish.

N. Y. Herald.

At a dinner party one night Sir Andrew Clark noticed that the lady next to him at table passed a dish to which he helped himself plentifully.

He asked if she did not like it, as it was excellent. She replied:

"Oh, yes; I like it, but my physician forbids me to eat it."

"Stuff and nonsense," said Sir Andrew. "It would not hurt any one. Who is your physician?"

"To which the lady, whom the medical magnate had forgotten, answered, with a demure twinkle in her eye:—

"Sir Andrew Clark."

MICHIGAN HERMIT.

Who is Said to be Former Well-Known Resident of Paris, Ont.

The Chicago Blade of recent date had the following from Orono, Michigan:

"There lives a few miles east of this city in a miserable broken down house, a man whose face bears a strong likeness to that of Count Leo Tolstoy, the Russian writer. In no other way will John Aymer bear comparison with the famous foreigner, except that he is even more of a recluse."

He is far past 70 years old, but almost anybody else, living as he lives, would have been dead a quarter of a century ago. It is doubtful now that the Dansville hermit is dead, if Michigan contains a more unquiet, forbidding-looking man than he. Yet even he has his romance. Something over fifty years ago, young Aymer, the son of a former member of the Canadian Parliament for the county of Brant, was prominent in the society of Paris, Ontario. He resided on a fine farm on the edge of the city, and was the accepted suitor of Miss Felice Le Mead, daughter of a wealthy Montreal merchant. The young people were betrothed while Aymer was attending a school in Montreal.

The marriage was prevented by the girl's father. Speaking of that phase of his life Aymer says: "I was only a farmer, although I had plenty of money. The girl's father chose for her a man in Ottawa who not only had money, but belonged to the aristocracy. Yet I loved her always. I've never loved since, and so I'm alone in the world, and my world has become pretty small."

When his marriage to Felice Le Mead was prevented he left Canada never to return. Unhappy in the extreme because his betrothed felt that it was her duty to obey her father rather than follow the dictates of her own heart, he forewore marriage. He came to Michigan broken in spirit, and he has ever since lived in a near Orono. Once energetic and full of life, he has since Orono people first knew, been apparently shiftless and without a friend in the world. For years he conducted a small charcoal kiln from which he was able to get money for his few, very few, necessities. Now he cultivates a twenty-acre farm and occasionally he makes a trip into the city. He has come to some in his part of the county who are said to be the old man dies a close examination of his but will reveal some golden secrets.

PHONOGRAPH BARKERS.

\$25 a Week and More to be Earned Now by Men Favored by Voice.

There is a new employment in town for the lucky possessor of a powerful voice who can use it with sufficient impressiveness and distinctness. Some stage experience as actor or singer is of great assistance, but not all of the men who engage in this vocation have enjoyed this preparation.

It is in the factories of the manufacturers of phonograph rolls that this new employment is to be found. Some of the men at this work earn as much as \$25 a week and two get twice that sum. Both of these are able to enunciate clearly and have very good voices. Both have been in the variety stage.

The duty of such an employee is to announce into the receiver before a song the name of the selection and of the person who is to deliver it, not forgetting to mention more emphatically than either of these facts, the name of the maker of the instrument—"as sung into the Blank-Blank phonograph"—he must say with both feet on the name of the machine.

The habit of engaging music hall performers and later, noted comedians and singers to use the phonograph, made the announcer more important than he had ever been before. He has now to pronounce correctly foreign names and titles of arias in different languages, and he must do all this in a way that will be understood. For these reasons it became necessary to have capable men; so the new profession of the phonograph barker came into existence. — N. Y. Sun.

DOSING A FERN.

Castor Oil as Medicine for Household Plants.

The fine-leaved variety of fern, like the maidenhair and others, is not to be sprinkled on the leaves, says a florist. House plants of larger foliage, however, like the rubber plant and palms, need careful and comparatively frequent sponging and sprinkling with water. A further suggestion in the care of house plants is contributed by a woman who has phenomenal success with her ferns. "If I find that a plant seems weak and ill-nourished," she says, "I give it a dose of castor oil some morning, and of the next water, repeating it, perhaps, after an interval of a week or ten days, if the improvement does not seem sufficiently marked. The suggestion was given to me by a florist long time ago, and I have tried it repeatedly with excellent results."—New York Evening Post.

Size of a Molecule.

How minute these particles are it is barely possible even to suggest. The thinnest part of a soap bubble, the centre of the little black spots seen just before the bubble bursts, is probably about thirty times as thick as a molecule. The molecule, or ultimate particle, of any one of the seventy elements of which the universe is made up is less than the width of a hair, at least two or more primitive particles, called atoms—or, at any rate, must be supposed to be so to account for the phenomena of chemical combination and the part most mysterious of all cannot be larger than a tenth of one of these. Its diameter, at the outside, is one-two-hundred-and-fifty-millionth of an inch.

"What are your rates?" queried the bold man, as he entered the health resort hotel.

"Ten dollars per day," responded the proprietor.

"Can't you make a reduction? I'm a robber."

"What has that to do with it?"

"Why, I thought, perhaps, you cognized the profession."