

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

David Starr Jordan's prediction that the war may end by April 1 expresses a pious hope. Dr. Jordan himself suggested that it is impossible to point to anything to justify such a prediction. Dr. Jordan says that the "suffering millions will demand peace." Perhaps. But the capacity of the millions to suffer will not necessarily be exhausted by a nine-months' war. Millions have suffered for years without demanding peace. Again, as the war goes on the millions themselves may become more and more infected with its violent passions.

All we can see to-day is that the nations continue to arm; that one of the greatest involved has not quite finished preparing for its great effort by land; that none of the combatants is, on the surface at least, anywhere near exhaustion, and that suggestions of peace are firmly rejected in all quarters. We see, furthermore, that none of the nations has relinquished in any measure the convictions with which it entered the war. All of them—with the possible exception of Russia—believe that it is a case of conquering its rivals or submitting to conditions which will in the end deprive them of their dignity as great powers. When the war will end, now, as at the beginning, is pure guesswork. All we can do is to hope that "this scourge of war will soon pass away."

To those of us who have been in the habit of tempting the Goddess of Chance the fact that the late Richard Canfield, the New York gambling-house keeper, left over \$1,000,000 should give pause for thought. Canfield ran a gambling palace. Its furnishings, its entertainment of "patrons" were on the most lavish scale. Its owner is credibly reported to have lost huge sums in playing other men's games for money. Some estimates of these losses run into the millions. He had not been "in business" for several years, leading a life of costly leisure. Yet he managed to leave over a million dollars, even as the wreck of his fortune, accumulated after defraying "overhead" charges which would wreck any other business.

One Adams, from the pennies of the poor gambled in his "policy" games, is reputed to have accumulated over \$5,000,000. The gaming tables of Monte Carlo yield, it is said over \$4,000,000 annually in net profits. That's the "percentage" against the player and in favor of "the house." What chance has the man who tempts fortune in this manner? How is it possible that any man of average intelligence will so waste his time and substance? Yet the thing is done every day, by men of apparent intelligence!

### Indigestion.

Many people are martyrs to indigestion and its attendant ailments without taking any thought of what lies at the real root of the matter. They eat and drink too much, often at the wrong times, and then complain, or else dose themselves with medicine simply because it cured some one else. If the same individual consumed the barest amount of food for a few days, and that of the plainest description, he or she would find their indigestion vanish at once. There is nothing like starvation for anything wrong with the stomach.

Some faddists state that to eat no breakfast is an infallible cure. It is nothing of the sort. The body requires food, but if the amount we eat is cut down one-half it would still be sufficient. Study the diet, and drop all foods that cause indigestion. In this respect what agrees with one person may be poison to another. Therefore test the food yourself.

Sweets and starchy food should be dropped for a time. Orange and lemon juice taken the first thing in the morning are good, especially orange juice. I have known this fruit cure a case of chronic indigestion when nothing else appeared to have a permanent effect. But the great thing is to regulate the diet, and only eat what agrees, and not to drink with the meals.—A Physician.

In a certain California town lived a man who was willing to have his neighbors think him a fine musician. He installed a mechanical piano near a front window of his home, and spent hours peddling out melodies. He received compliments for a time, but his eight-year-old boy betrayed him in the end. "Your father is a great piano player, isn't he?" asked a woman who lived across the street. "Yes," said the kiddie, "but it makes his feet awful sore."

## HOME

### Recipes for Icings.

**Egg Frosting (With Coconut).**—Ingredients: Whites of two eggs, one-half pound of fine confectioners' sugar, one-eighth teaspoonful of cream of tartar, one teaspoonful of lemon juice. Method: Beat the whites with a revolving egg beater until stiff, then add the sugar, two tablespoonfuls at a time until you have used half, always beating one minute between. Then add the cream of tartar, two more spoonfuls of sugar and lemon juice. Now beat in rest of sugar, and as soon as a knife, if drawn through, leaves a cleft, it is ready for cake. One cupful of fresh grated coconut is then added and the cake is iced between layers, top and sides, strewing a liberal amount of the coconut over the top.

**Boiled Custard Filling.**—Ingredients: One-half cupful of milk, three tablespoonfuls of sugar, two level tablespoonfuls of cornstarch, yolks of two eggs. Method: Dissolve cornstarch in a little milk, place rest in double boiler and when hot stir in the starch. Beat yolks with sugar, add some of the hot mixture, then pour back in kettle and stir until smooth. To this may be added any desired flavoring, a little melted chocolate or shredded nuts and fruits, or desiccated coconut can be strewn over while applying custard to cake.

**Ornamental Icing.**—Method: Use above egg frosting, but beat so long that a bit dropped on paper will stand up perfectly, then place in pastry squirt or bag and apply in any desired design.

**Mocha Cream Filling.**—Method: Whip one pint of double cream, then add three tablespoonfuls of confectioners' sugar and one or two tablespoonfuls of very strong cold coffee. This may be varied by adding some crushed macaroons or ground nuts.

**Lord Baltimore Filling.**—Ingredients for filling: One cupful of stale almond macaroons, one-half cupful of ground pecan nuts, six finely shredded dates, two teaspoonfuls of orange juice or sherry. Method: Prepare these beforehand and have them ready to add to icing. Ingredients for icing: Two cupfuls of granulated sugar, two-thirds cupful of water, whites of two eggs. Method—Place sugar and water in a saucepan and boil, being careful not to scorch, until syrup will spin a thread when dropped from a spoon. In the meantime beat the whites with a revolving egg beater until stiff. When syrup is ready let some one pour it gradually over the whites, beating all the time. As soon as icing is stiff enough to spread without being too thin add the prepared ingredients and spread quickly between layers and over top and sides of cake.

**Lady Baltimore Filling.**—Ingredients for filling: One cupful of sultana raisins, one cupful of blanched and ground almonds, three figs, twelve candied cherries. Method: Cut the fruit into small bits with scissors, then mix the icing and proceed as directed for Lord Baltimore cake. To make the Lord or Lady Baltimore, especially nice, as for a company cake, after frosting has hardened make one-half of the recipe given for icing. When stiff enough to hold its shape, but still run slowly pour on top of cake, tipping it to all sides to let icing run toward edge, then apply lightly to sides as it runs down.

**French Butter Frosting.**—Ingredients: One-quarter cupful of fresh butter, two cupfuls of sifted confectioners' sugar, hot water, as needed, any desired flavoring. Method: If you have no unsalted butter wash good table butter. To do this heat a bowl and hands in hot water, then chill, and, taking butter into bowl, work and knead under cold water. Place butter between a clean napkin and pat dry, now cream the butter and sugar, adding a little hot water as needed. The mixture must be light and creamy, and after being applied to cake set in a cold place and the frosting will harden. This gives you the foundation for all kinds of French frosting. If you use hot coffee instead of water you have a mocha frosting, to which one or two spoonfuls of powdered charcoal may be added. Ground nuts are also nice in this frosting or nuts and candied cherries can be set on top as decorations.

### Household Hints.

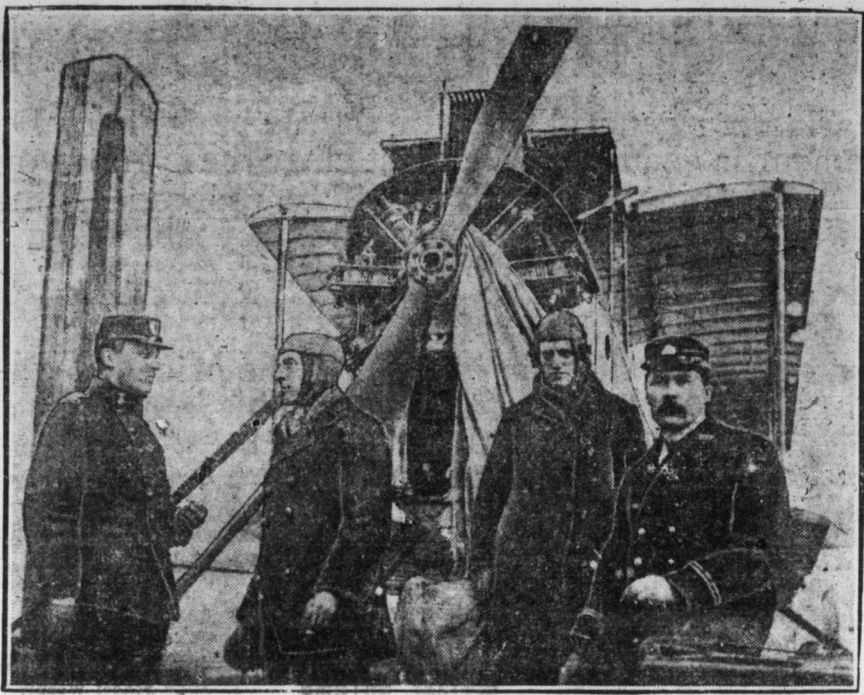
When making suet pudding add an equal quantity of stale bread soaked in cold water.

What is the best early closing movement?—To go to bed at ten o'clock and close your eyes in sleep.

Be neighborly, be obliging, be kind and courteous, and then when sorrow and sickness come you will have sympathy and help.

A piece of suet run through a chopper before and after it has been used for mincing meat keeps the machine clean and in good condition.

When baking potatoes place them in hot water for 15 minutes before putting in the oven. They will then bake in half the time, and so effect a saving in fuel.



Two Britons who Made Terms in the North Sea.

Our picture shows Commander Shedd and his mechanic, who, whilst flying over Northern Belgium, dropped into the North Sea. When the Dutch steamer "Orn" came to rescue them they refused to leave the hydroplane until they were promised that they would not be interned when landed at Rotterdam. The hydroplane has been interned, but the two men have been permitted to return.

Umbrellas last much longer if during the fine weather they are never kept rolled up. When this is done the silk frays at the folds, and soon a rent will be the result. To save the trouble of carrying mattresses down stairs tie a rope round them and lower them from the window when possible. Carpets and rugs may be removed in the same way.

Cayenne pepper is excellent to rid cupboards of mice. The floor should be gone over carefully, and each hole stopped up with a piece of rag dipped in water and then in cayenne pepper.

A sure test of linen is to wet a portion or piece, and if moisture is quickly absorbed and shows through to the other side you will never be mistaken about linen. This is a never-fail test.

If when making soup or beef-tea for an invalid it is necessary to cool it at once pass it through a clean cloth saturated with cold water. Not a particle of fat will be left in the beef-tea. Stale bread and stale cheese can be made into an excellent pie for dinner. Fill a baking dish with alternate layers of stale breadcrumbs and crumbled cheese. Beat up an egg, pour it in, and bake.

Instead of always folding tablecloths lengthwise it is an excellent plan to sometimes fold them the other way, as they are less likely to wear out if the folds are occasionally changed.

Instead of using two eggs for the family cake use half an egg-beaten in two tablespoonfuls of golden syrup. When making rice pudding place a piece of bread in the bottom of the dish and use less rice.

Don't throw away rusty curtain hooks. Put them in a bowl, cover with cloudy ammonia, and leave soaking for half an hour. Then stir round with a stick, pour off the ammonia and dry the hooks. They will be as good as new.

In weighing molasses for puddings or cakes if you dredge a little flour on to the scoop of the scale you can then dispense with the trouble of weighing a basin or saucer, as the treacle will slip off the scale quite clean if weighed immediately.

To store parsley for winter use place sprigs in a paper bag, tie up, and hang near the kitchen range to dry. After one week remove the stems and place leaves in a glass jar, cover closely, and when required it will look and taste like fresh parsley.

### Russia's Submarines.

In aircraft and submarines Russia is a leader. The giant Sikorsky aeroplane, a recently-invented type, is capable of carrying seventeen men, and seems likely to make a more useful fighting machine than the German gas-filled dirigibles. As to submarines, Russia is constructing one which will be far larger and better than any at present in existence. It is 400 feet long, 34 feet beam, and 5,400 tons displacement, which means that it is eleven times the size of the next largest craft of the kind. Its engines of 18,000 h.p. will drive it at twenty-six knots on the surface, and its motors of 4,400 h.p. will give it fourteen knots submerged. It has a cruising radius of 18,000 miles, can run under water for 275 miles at a stretch, has five 4.7 guns for surface fighting, and carries sixty torpedoes and 120 mines.

Angry Employer—Do you mean to contradict me? You haven't as much sense as a donkey. Clerk—No, sir. I don't pretend to set my opinion against yours.

A woman's volunteer reserve, composed of expert riflemen of London, has organized and asked the war office for an allotment of duties in case England is invaded.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

### INTERNATIONAL LESSON FEBRUARY 7.

#### Lesson VI. Ruth Chooses the True God—Ruth 1-16.

Verse 6. That she might return from the country of Moab.—Naomi went out from Bethlehem-Judah with her husband and two sons. They were called Ephraim and Elimelech. This is another word for Ephraimites as found in Judg. 12, 5; 1 Sam. 1, 1; 1 Kings 11, 26. Bethlehem is spoken of as Ephraim. It was too "small" to be among the families of Judah, but it was "the finest site in all the province of Judah" (George Adam Smith). Bethlehem, as is well known, is made up of two words, "Beth," meaning "house," and "Lehem," meaning "bread." The name "house of bread" indicates that the country was exceedingly fertile.

Jehovah had visited his people.—This is a common expression in the Old Testament to denote the beneficence of God (see Gen. 21, 1; 50, 24, 25; Exod. 4, 31; 1 Sam. 2, 21; Ps. 80, 14).

7. Went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.—It was customary for the host to accompany the guest a certain distance along his way. Doubtless Naomi thought that her two daughters-in-law would go with her for a distance and then would return to their own homes. As the next verse shows, when they had gone with her as far as she thought they ought to, she said to them, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house." She presses them to return.

9. She kissed them.—The kiss was the usual greeting at meeting and parting. It is still the salutation in the Orient among men as well as women (see Gen. 29, 11; 31, 55; Exod. 4, 27). It was a mark of friendship. Naomi kissed her two daughters-in-law. There are two instances where it was used for foul purposes. Under the guise of friendship, Job kissed Amasa, and thus taking him unaware, killed him (2 Sam. 20, 9). Another instance is the well-known one of Judas.

10. Nay, but we will return with thee, O my people.—Both of the daughters-in-law, it would seem, were determined to return with Naomi. After the fervent appeal of Naomi, as recited in verses 11-13, Orpah weakened in her determination to accompany her mother-in-law; but Ruth (verse 14) "clave unto her." The friendship of Ruth went far deeper than that of Orpah.

15. Behold thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her god: return thou after thy sister-in-law.—Even after Orpah had gone, Naomi insisted upon Ruth going. She wanted to give Ruth every opportunity to go back, not only to her people, but to her god, as it was believed among the Israelites that the God of Israel did not have power over the people of other nations. David at one time pleads that he be not sent away from his own country and from the protection of the God of Israel (1 Sam. 26, 17-20).

16. Entreat me not to leave thee.—This and the following verse express so emphatically Ruth's desire to remain with Naomi that there could be no other question in Naomi's mind as to Ruth's determination and steadfastness. The beauty of the language of these two verses is captivating and shows that "out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh," that beauty of form is associated with beauty of thought and conviction. (See 2 Kings 2, 2-6 for a similar episode between Elijah and Elisha).

17. Jehovah do so to me, and more also.—This is a common form of oath among the Israelites and among other people who came in close association with the Israelites (see 1 Sam. 3, 17; 14, 44; 20, 13; 2 Sam. 3, 9, 35; 19, 13; 1 Kings 2, 23; 2 Kings 6, 31).

18. She left off speaking unto her.—It is an easy play for the imagination to see these two women talking in the road together, stopping as they frankly and firmly express their views one to the other, but when the matter is settled, going on their way with gladness.

### ENJOY FUNERALS.

Scottish Writer Tells of Regular "Guests" Who Never Miss.

The typically Scottish funeral of the old days has been banished for good, says a writer in the Weekly Scotsman. Only in very exceptional cases does one read of "scenes" at an interment. The fashion of sending round the whiskey and bannocks and cheese has not been altogether abandoned in lonely country districts, where hearers are still unknown, but it is seldom that the bounds of decency are overstepped. It was not always so. There are many cases on record of funerals lasting two and even three days, partly as the result of snowstorms and partly due to the too rapid and continuous passing of the whiskey.

One can see in all the cities and towns of Scotland long strings of mourning coaches in the wake of a hearse. And in these days, nothing is easier than to become a "guest" at a funeral, more especially at a funeral of some leading citizen. All that is required to be done is to study the obituary advertisements inviting friends of the deceased who intend being present to intimate to a certain coach-hirer their intention, so that carriages to the requisite number may be in waiting. A post-card or telephone call is all that is necessary, and any name can, and often is for that matter, given, for the posting establishment takes only account of the number of mourners who are expected to be present, and does not trouble about anything else. Besides it is always possible for a man with a black coat and dress hat to find room in the mourning coaches, for everyone who promises to come does not put in an appearance.

While standing at St. George's Parish Church, Glasgow, where many of the large funerals start from, I was surprised the other day when an official of a hiring establishment, pointing to a gentleman just getting into a mourning coach, whispered, "Do you see that old chap? He has been going to funerals for years. He has a perfect craze for them, and never misses an opportunity when there is an open invitation in the newspapers. And he is one of the cheeriest old fellows I have ever met. He told me one time when I remarked to him that he must have assisted in the laying down of hundreds of the citizens of Glasgow, that it cost him nothing, and was always a nice change. Imagine speaking of a funeral as a 'nice change.'"

"Six summers ago I was engaged at a big posting establishment. In the Perthshire Highlands. At the funeral of a local notability; to which there was an open invitation in the advertising columns of the newspapers, there was an extraordinary turnout. It took us all our time to get the necessary number of coaches, for the churchyard was a good distance away, and the mourners could not have walked the distance. There were refreshments served, and I noticed that the country people were quite as unconcerned as if they had been going to a fat stock show."

"A coachman who was sent to a place near Invernesshire for the shooting season from our establishment in Glasgow told me that at a funeral he was at when in the Highlands there was an old gentleman pointed out to him who had not missed a funeral for years within a very considerable radius of his home. He seemed to be after the stamp of the Glasgow lover, and was said to be an adept about everything connected with coffins and graveyards."

To make mashed potatoes far more appetizing use hot milk instead of cold when mashing them.

## BELGIAN'S GREAT SMOKERS.

Consume More Tobacco Per Head Than Other People.

That the Belgians, in their times of happy peace and prosperity, consumed more tobacco per head than any other country in the world will probably come as a surprise to many people. Their army of smokers, however, formed no less than one-third of the entire population of the country, their annual consumption of tobacco being 6 1/4 lb per head—more than three times the amount consumed in the United Kingdom, and six times as much as in Italy.

And it was his love for a good pipe which led the Belgian to inaugurate smoking competitions, when enthusiastic devotees of "My Lady Nicotine" competed for various prizes. Nearly every village no matter how small, could boast its "Roekersmaatschappij," which almost unpronounceable word is equivalent for what we term "Smokers' Club." At these competitions it was the custom to compete for money prizes, the winner being decorated with some floral adornment pinned on their breasts, as visible proof of the honor achieved.

The premier smoking club of Belgium was the Bruges Smoking Club, which held its meetings at a certain cafe in the Grande Place. The room in which the members met was decorated with a gorgeous banner, while on the walls was to be seen an assortment of curious pipes, representing all corners of the globe. In fact, the place was a veritable museum of pipes.

Members were only permitted to enter the Bruges Smoking Club after reaching the age of eighteen. Cigars and cigarettes were tabooed, the pipe being looked upon as the only justifiable means of satisfying that craving which makes us slaves to the weed.

The chief object of the club was not to break records in regard to the amount of tobacco consumed, but to teach its members the use of tobacco by organizing competitions and offering prizes to those who could make a pipeful of tobacco last the longest. On the night of the competition members gathered round the tables, while the tobacco was taken out of a jar and each competitor's allowance carefully weighed on a small pair of scales. This allowance consisted of exactly forty-five grains. The pipes were then carefully filled, and at a signal the competitors struck matches and lit their pipes.

Then the matches were removed from the tables and the judges sat carefully watching each competitor to see that he regularly emitted smoke from his mouth, and thus proved that his pipe was alight. When a competitor failed to do so, this fact was announced by ringing a bell, and thus the other competitors were kept informed of the number of competitors still left in the contest.

After the contest had been in progress for about three-quarters of an hour the critical period began, for it then required the greatest care on the part of the competitors to keep the tiny spark of flame in the bowl of the pipe, and the judges would frequently have to call out "Smoke."

## THE CHURCH AND THE WAR

Christianity Is Concerned Not With Any Specific Class, But Solely With Humanity.

Seek peace and pursue it.—1 Peter iii., 11.

There is no circumstance of the situation in Europe more appalling than the fact that the churches are without exception supporting the war from the standpoint of their respective countries.

That many institutions should support, or at least apologize for war, is understandable. Thus it is not surprising that certain forms of business should find armed conflict profitable and therefore commendable. It is not inconceivable that the world of learning should regard war on occasion as necessary to the maintenance of a native culture, and thus defend it as Fichte defended the German uprising against Napoleon in 1813 and as Eucken is supporting the German invasion of Belgium and France to-day. There are laborites who pardon the collapse of European socialism on the ground that the call to national loyalty is more imperative than the call to international comity. There are even those who assert that war is never wholly bad, as Ruskin, who tells us that war is the foster mother of art and letters, and Emerson, who declares that "wars, like fires and plagues, break up miserable routine, clear the ground of rotten races and dens of distemper, and open a fair field for new men."

### The Great Household of God.

With the Church, however, no one of these standpoints is admissible. The antithesis between religion and war is absolute. No considerations of self-interest, wisdom, patriotism or even artistic development and social cleansing can here achieve reconciliation. Its quest is not the supremacy of any civilization, or empire, or type of culture,

## -Fashion Hints

### High Collars Growing Frequent.

We may abjure the high, boned collar in our mind and protest that we will be comfortable at any cost, but gradually we will succumb to the fashion for covering the neck. Its insistence wears out opposition. One sees the smart women wearing it, on every side, and one adopts it in piecemeal. Probably it will oust the low collar by February.

Fashion is not opposed to the open V-shaped wedge in the front, but it exacts a covering for the back and sides of the neck. Therefore the new standing collar of white satin that only extends to the ears is popular, for it is an artistic compromise.

The high choker of fur is in strong demand. It is far more fashionable than the loose swinging shoulder piece, or the small scarf with head and tails. These chokers are merely extra high bands to go around the neck, reaching to the ears and fastening in front with a loop or a rose or a twist of ribbon.

### For the Coat Collar.

There is a most sensible coat hanger now on the market made of wood and in a medium size. It is made with a little curved neck portion three or four inches high, about which the coat collar or the collar of the bodice fits and lies flat. It is well worth while to own one of these hangers for the winter suit. There is a hook on the under part of the hanger in the centre for the skirt.

### Beaded Net.

The beaded nets that are sold by the yard are fascinating to the woman who likes lovely fabrics. There is something decidedly interesting in the combination of heavy metallic embroidery and beads with thin and filmy net. Some of the nets, in black, are marked off in diagonal lines with white chain beads and others have little bead flowers of pink and silver alternately placed at two-inch intervals.

We are more apt to give a man credit for good luck than for common sense.

Blessed is the man who expects nothing but advice from his relatives, for that is about all he'll get.

Exactly what the record time is it is difficult to say, but from inquiries which the writer has made, it appears that one of the best performances was that of a competitor of the Bruges Smoking Club, who kept his pipe alight for one hour, twenty-one minutes, thirty-three seconds.

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### No Compromise or Evasion.

The story of the last hours of Pope Pius X., whose death was one of the most dramatic episodes of the opening days of the European cataclysm, gives us a perfect illustration of the principles here laid down. According to the tale, the Austrian Ambassador entered the Papal bedchamber and asked the blessing of the Holy Father upon the arms of the sovereign whom he served. Once, twice, thrice he offered his petition without receiving reply. At last the Pope spoke words which should be forever memorable in the annals of the race: "No," he said; "tell your Emperor I will not bless his arms. I bless peace, not war!"—Rev. John Haynes Holmes.