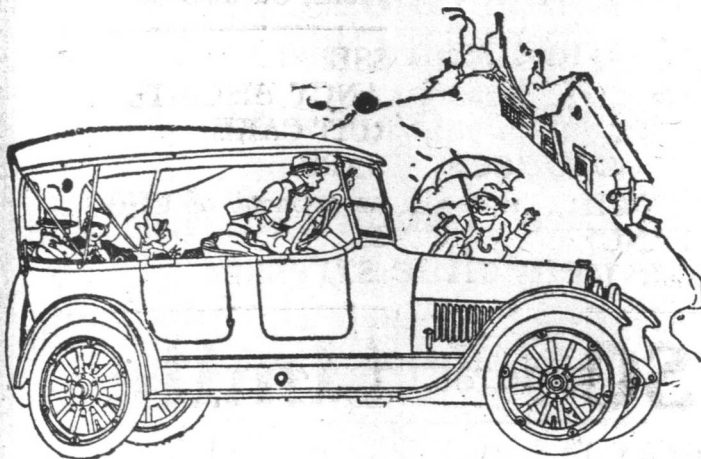


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Beds Out of Doors.

(By W. Harold Thomson.)

"This will be my seventh summer as an out-of-doors sleeper," my friend Robertson said to me yesterday. "I'm starting again on Friday—and I'm looking forward to it."

"But," I objected, thinking of a recent Sunday, "what about our climate? There might be a foot of snow in the garden by the week-end."

"So far as I am concerned," he said, "that wouldn't matter very much. You've seen the balcony arrangement that I had fixed up last year. I'm protected by a thin wooden roof and, if I want them, by canvas screens. Of course that's doing the thing thoroughly, and I'm bound to admit that for the average man, or woman sleeping out of doors as a nightly occurrence is not feasible. Still, they should do it whenever possible. You know yourself what a fine experience it is in good weather."

Now, I do know it, and it is because I do that I am writing this little article.

True, every night—even in a British summer—is not suitable for the open-air sleep, but from now onward the really bad nights should be few. The sleep out of doors, by the way, is worth two bedroom sleeps; and as for the waking—well, it brings back memories of one's vigorous schoolboy mornings when to lie abed was regarded not as a treat but as a nuisance.

I know, of course, that in advocating the bed out of doors I advocate something which many would be impossible. To do the thing properly and with the maximum of enjoyment you want to sleep in a garden, and if possible in a garden of charm—though for the matter of that all gardens have charm.

Still there are a good many gardens in London and its suburbs, and even in a flat there is often a small balcony which, properly curtained off, can serve as a quite satisfactory slumber-place.

An acquaintance of mine who lives in Hampstead has so used his flat balcony for many years, and no doubt because of that, he looks the healthiest tenant in the block.

A mattress raised some few inches off the ground, a stretch of tarpaulin overhead—if there are showers about—plenty of warm bedclothes, and you are in for a sound, sweet sleep and eight hours of health-winning.

For myself, I like a hammock—one of the good old canvas sort on which a mattress is laid—along between a couple of trees. But that is a matter of training.

If you have a garden, no matter how small, you should give this out-of-doors sleeping at least a trial.

At first no doubt you may be kept awake by the sheer joy of the night and because the sky fascinates you. Also the birds will be trilling at the bell of your consciousness soon after dawn. But after a night or two you will find that sleep comes quickly and gracefully, and that even if the birds do wake you early in the morning you feel rather bird-like yourself.

And, of course, to sing before breakfast is all right so long as it is not done in the hearing of some well-enclosed slug-a-bed.—London Daily Mail.

Gen. Pershing's Mistake.

Many persons have been wondering for the last eight months why the wave of popularity which seemed to seize General Pershing, and looked as if it would carry him over the top into the Presidential chair, has subsided. After making inquiries of many of the boys who have returned from France and drawing a conclusion from much testimony, it would seem that, as some of them put it plainly, they "got cold feet on Pershing because he was willing to misstate conditions in France." If there is anything a soldier hates is this. A man who is willing to take his life in his hands, and does, is not much of a four-flusher.

The people in the United States knew that any administration would do politics. They knew the administration must sell bonds, must get soldiers, would favor its friends. But our boys over there did not know the people over here were being fooled when the Secretary of War made statements that certain things were favorable when they were unfavorable and when General Pershing backed him up in it and cabled the same reports from France that were given out over here. When the boys got home and found their families and friends had been deceived, not by what the Secretary of War said, but because General Pershing said it was so, then they turned on the General and turned their families and friends with them.

Had General Pershing had the moral courage to have contradicted the Secretary of War he would be the biggest man in the United States today. Of course this statement will not appeal to the favored friends of General Pershing who received the commissions and promotions which he had to grant. The whole truth is that the Secretary of War did not think it good policy or politics to let actual conditions in France be known here, and General Pershing o. k. 'd it.—Saturday Post.

Marrying the Enemy.

Love Will Have Its Way.

Will the establishment of the Army of Occupation in Germany result in German brides being brought to this country by some of our soldiers? The problem is one which is engaging the serious attention of the authorities, for it is recognized that human nature being what it is, love laughs at nationalities as well as locksmiths. Thomas Atkins, Esq., will fight for his country and obey Army regulations, but he reserves to himself the right to fall in love with whom he likes.

And although the great majority of German girls do not appeal to British ideals of beauty, their blandishments are not to be resisted. This is shown by the fact that some British and French prisoners in Germany have preferred to remain in that country because they have formed an attachment for an "enemy woman."

A Means to an End!

The sinister suggestion has been made that German girls are deliberately practising their wiles on our soldiers "to the order" of the German Government. Be that as it may, there is no doubt that, in spite of the general feeling of antipathy and repugnance which may be felt in this country towards such attachments, our soldiers do not always object to them.

This is illustrated by an incident which Bishop Frodsham relates in his description of "Germany Under the Conqueror's Heel" in the "Cornhill Magazine." A certain commander read, to his horror, in a German newspaper that Fraulein E. Schmidt was betrothed to Private John Brown, of his own regiment. Confronted with the announcement Brown admitted giving the girl a ring.

Angry Comrades.

The editor was then asked why he had published such a notice. It had been sent to him by the girl's mother, and he did not know such things were forbidden. When the mother was questioned, she said that she had only acted according to custom, and it was not proper for a young girl to walk out with a young man until the neighbors had thus been informed of her swain's honest intentions. Meantime Brown had to be put in prison to escape the "attentions" of indignant comrades. Demobilization may solve the problem, but, as the Bishop points out, the situation raised is likely to be repeated when peace has been declared.

THE BUCKET.

The day is approaching when booze will be banished, the lights will go out in the gilded saloons; the bartenders all from their posts will have vanished, along with the jugs and the brazen spittoons. Alas for the soak and the bum and the drifter! The tale of their anguish no poet can tell; they'll hit, when they look for a four-fingered snifter, the old oaken bucket that hangs in the well. The old oaken bucket that hangs in the well, the sexton's preparing to ring out his knell; and so we get back to the trusty old bucket, the moss covered bucket that hangs in the well. I stand with the poet who boasted the bucket, who said that it struck him as finer than silk; we've long clung to whiskey but now we will chuck it, and sample such liquids as water and milk. Oh, then we'll be chipper and lithe in the morning, as gay as a kitten, as sound as a bell; the wiles of the bootlegger manfully scorned, we'll hit the old bucket that hangs in the well.

Soul of Wit.

The agitation for shorter speeches in Parliament calls to mind that one of the most effective speeches ever made in the House of Commons was also one of the shortest. Lord Ashley, rising to support a Bill for granting counsel to prisoners accused of high treason, lost his nerve, and his speech. For a moment he stood dumb, and then, by a desperate effort, achieved one sentence.

"If, sir," he said, "I, who now rise only to give my opinion of the Bill, am so confounded that I am unable to express what I proposed to say, what must be the condition of that man who, without any assistance, is pleading for his life?"

He sat down amid the cheers of a House utterly convinced.

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Volumes That Caused Riots.

The husband and wife who, as reported in a recent divorce case, quarrelled over a book by a famous lady novelist, are not the first people who have unwisely allowed themselves to lose their tempers in similar circumstances.

When that much-discussed book "The Jungle" was first published it was directly responsible for several cases of assault and battery; and at least two divorce actions also resulted.

The Sinn Fein movement was broken up in Westmeath as the result of a recent novel. A whole county was set by the ears, and a series of faction fights of unparalleled bitterness took place.

Undeserved Popularity.

Half-a-dozen duels, two deaths, and a score of serious assaults were the aftermath of the appearance in book form of Lieutenant Bilse's "Life in a Garrison Town," published in Germany a few years before the war. Then the Kaiser stepped in and ordered the volume to be suppressed, with the result that Bilse's exceedingly wish-washy novel promptly attained world wide popularity.

Mention might also be made of husband and wife quarrelling bitterly because the former elected to earn his living by his pen, as exemplified in the unhappy married life of W. M. Thackeray.

Thackeray's wife showed her resentment not only by refusing to read any of his inimitable novels, but she also used every means in her power to hinder him in his literary work. On one occasion she went so far as to tear up the greater portion of a completed manuscript work, representing several months of hard intellectual toil.

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