MY THIRTY YEARS IN BASEBALL

By JOHN J. McGRAW.

Humorous Incidents—'Steve' Brodie Forgets to Score—The Umpire Who'Talked Back' to Dummy Taylor-Mc-Graw's Fifty-Dollar Umbrella Joke — Wilbert Robinson and the Balloon Ascension.

You can imagine what we said to

I can see that picture now and i

Another humorous picture that

the Polo Grounds when Dummy Tay-

for the pitcher, tried to show up the

umpires. We were well in the lead

that day when, after a slight drizzle,

rain began to fall in torrents. The

lead. But O'Day was stubborn.

A few minutes later, to our sur

Giant pitcher, who was deaf and dumb

wet to play. Out of the corner of my

eye I saw Dummy Taylor dart under

umping up and down and so on. "Get out of there!" O'Day motioned to the deaf-mute pitcher, "Get

I could see from his eye that Taylor knew what was going on, but he

kept right on, the stands rocking in

Finally O'Day walked toward Tayor. Catching his eye, he indicated

Taylor turned to me and began telling me on his fingers what he

bench laughed at the terrible things

Suddenly O'Day flew into a rage, ap-

by sign what he had sald.

off there, I tell you!"

laughter.

ased exclusively through the North out without a run. Brodie had stood merican Newspaper Alliance.) there and let Bresnahan go past him!

Before I get entirely away from the ld days when I was a player and go to the days when my real troubles gan-my experience as a manager -I must answer a suggestion sent to ne by Chick Evans, the great golfer. In answer to our questionnaire Mr. Dvans says: "I would be interested most in knowing what McGraw considers the funniest thing he ever saw

The things that give me the biggest laughs now, when in a reminiscent mood, were not funny at all at the time they occurred. The fact that we took them so seriously, though, is probably what makes them funny

For my best laughs my mind naturally drops back to the days of my association with Walter Brodle-'Steve." Don't get the impression that Brodie was a humorist. No. indeed. He was so deadly serious that he never knew he was funny.

One afternoon in a game at Baltimore Steve was on second and Roger Bresnahan at the bat. We needed two runs to win.

Bresnahan got hold of a fast one and slapped it far past the outfield. Upon reaching third Brodie turned to see where the ball had gone. He could see that it would be a threebase hit and probably a home run. After passing third, he stopped and began rooting and waving for Bresnahan to come on. In his excitement he forgot all about running himself.

"Come on, Roger!" he yelled. "Come on-atta boy, Roger!" Roger came steaming around the bases in answer to Brodie's urgent cries. He passed third and ran right

on past Brodle and slid into the plate for a home run. "Atta boy, Roger!" chuckled Brodie.

Then, to the amazement of th stands, to Brodie and to all of us. the catcher walked up and touched Brodie with the ball, putting the side

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him. It developed that O'Day had a relative who was a deaf-mute and he had learned the finger language

With head bowed, Taylor had to stroll all the way across the field in his gum boots, his mind on that \$25

Some ways back I mentioned the benefits of having a good memory. There was one incident, though, where my memory worked with reverse English.

Many of you will probably recall Umpire Bausewein. He is now a policeman in Philadelphia and I see him often. When he came to the National League for the first time we pro- of a machine; he feels compelled to On the menu cards at the same ceeded to ride him, of course,

remembered a game that he umpired or resist the movement and be sho years before. He had made a bad decision, so bad, in fact, that the owner of the home club left the stand and him. Just what he had done did not ran out on the field, hitting Bausedawn on Steve until he reached the wein over the head with an um-

is the funniest that I can remember, clearly that I wanted to make sure but, believe me, it was not funny that Bausewein remembered it. He made three or four bad decisions. In

> head up. There's an old guy with an umbrella up there in the stand."

game was called or suspended, and the crowd waited for fully a halfhour. Water stood in pools all over From the bench we kept yelling to Umpire O'Day to call the game and

it called as the Giants were in the Wilbert Robinson one day-a laugh that gave them a catch phrase for prise, Hank ordered play resumed several years.

Robbie, if you will recall, came back to join the Giants as coach. In the meantime he had grown much stouter. Robbie always was chubby but a few years away from the diamond and in business had added much to his weight. Still, he got a uniform and showed up on the coaching lines the first day in Chicago. He stooped over to pull a sprig of grass. Just as he did so the fans got

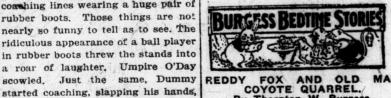
their first sight of him. "Holy Moses!" yelled a fan in the front row, his eyes glued on the rotund coach. "Say, McGraw, what time does the balloon go up?"

There was a roar of laughter by spectators and players at this. Robbie burned up, despite his wonderful

He often tells that on himself and laughs much more than he did then. For months after that if the players wanted to get Robbie's goat they would come to the bench, ask something about the balloon ascension and the stand. I knew he had something

on his mind. In fact, he had gone to beat it as fast as they could. the club house to see the grounds During a very serious moment the

During a very serious moment the (Copyright, 1923, in United States and crowd was treated to the sight of Canada by the Christy Walsh Syndicate)



pretended not to have noticed, and thought of O'Day. All of the Giants

had learned the deaf-mute finger ly-fallen snow. language and the players on the he was saying about the umpire.

"That'll cost you \$25!" he yelled, and then, to the astonishment of Taylor, and all the rest of us, he started using his fingers.

"You are out of the game-get off

language The umpire had understood every-

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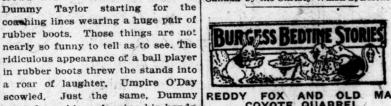
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thing that Taylor had said about

answer to our protests he waved us sticks in my mind was a rainy day at

let us go home. Naturally, we wanted





been up here for a visit," muttered Old Man Coyote. "I wonder if they are still here? They can't be very far ahead of me, because these tracks were made since the storm."

He began to run swiftly. He didn't have to depend upon his nose, for those tracks were plain for all to see. Occasionally he did put his nose down to them just to get that free!

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nctice inside the doorway of the cafe

which I know the best in New York.

And the suggestion has its effect.

issued by the same establishment, is

a notice to the effect that the man-

agement welcomes any report from

visitors of special attention or ser-

vice rendered by any member of its

staff, because it wishes to recognize

efficiency. Now, that is a new con-

ception. It is good psychology. It

also denotes a comprehension of the

principles of auto-suggestion Hither-

to it has been the custom to invite

clients, or visitors, or customers to

report inattention or negligence, with

view to the punishment or repri-

manding of the offender. Mark how

much more effective the new way

Efficiency seems to be equally as

Discerns Dangers.

This is all very admirable. But I

am wondering if there is not a ten-

dency to overdo things. System

standardization and clock-work effi-

smoothly. Yet, intuitively, perhaps

ciency are certainly desirable, and

natural to him as to the latter.

erica a European feels the impression grow upon him that he is a part fit himself into its complicated works After hearing his name, I suddenly and become one of its little wheelsoff into sterile isolation. Efficiency, system, standardization—these are, perhaps, the main reason for such an impression. There seems to be no room for anything or anybody inefficient. They would throw the machine out of gear.

Efficiency begins directly you step off the gangway from the ship. System directs you to the exact spot where your baggage will be found and guides you to the customs officer who is to examine it. The porter who handles your belongings handles both them and yourself like a machine, yelled at him, "you better keep your and before you realize what is happening you find yourself in a taxicab which has drawn up to a curb at the "Get out of here!" he screamed at precise moment of your own arrival. me. "Get off the bench! You are As for the lugggage, it has slid down out of the game! Get off the field!" a chute into the arms of a squad of Evidently I had set off a bomb, stalwart men who have only just time Very well did he remember the old to rescue it from an avalanche of other fellow with an umbrella. The laugh, people's trunks and bags trying to though, was on me. It cost me a \$50 overtake it. If you were not there at the right second to claim your property I suppose it would be hopelessly lost, for there can be no time to put all aside and sort it out afterwards. That is the danger of extreme machine-like systemization. If a hitch

occurs everything goes smash. The core of America is efficiency. It goes right through everything. You counter it at every turn. In my hotel room I take up the telephone receiver, and almost before I put it my ear the operator's voice is asking what number I require. That is unheard of in France or England. It is the little things that strike a stranger-little things that are unnoticed by the native inhabitants. And those apparently insignificant details that spell efficiency are innumerable in every city of America that I have visited.

Lauds Prompt Service

In the hotels and restaurants there is promptness of service, an absence of blunders or misunderstandings, smooth-running organization which they do much to make life run is very impressive. The theatres, the moving picture shows, the sub- I seem to discern danger in overway, the surface cars, the taxicabs, straining to reduce abstract qualiare a few among a host of examples ties to mathematically-perfect equaof the efficiency and system found tions in actual practice. It may bein every phase of human activity, come an obsession, like any other

Peter Rabbit had been quite right in thinking that Reddy Fox and Old Man Coyote would start out hunting as soon as the storm was over. They did old Man Coyote left his home in the Old Pasture and started out just as soon as he was sure that the storm really was over. He started overy shortly after Peter and Mrs. Peter had started for home in the dear Old Briar Patch. It was their good fortune that at first he looked about in another part of the Old Pasture. Finally he turned toward that part where Peter and Mrs. Peter had been. And so it was that he came upon their tracks in the new-tyl-fallen snow.

Old Man Coyote sprang at Reddy. Reddy dodged, and in his turn showed all his teeth. Then they faced each other, snarling and growling, each glooking as ugly as he knew how, that they called each other names. They called each other thief and robber had been. And so it was that he came upon their tracks in the new-tyl-fallen snow.

Old Man Coyote eyes brightened at the sight of those tracks. He guessed right away whose tracks in the new-tyl-fallen snow.

Old Man Coyote eyes brightened at the sight of those tracks. He guessed right away whose tracks in the reaches they were. He knew that the only Rabbit living in the Old Pasture were the tracks of two Rabbits!—

The next story: "The Bad Temper of the staff, he had been allotted a room without going through the regular machinery of the stablishment.

I believe this danger of subjecting everything and everyone to machine-like rule is real in America. But I also believe that Americans are far looking as ugly as he knew how, to defend and a lot of other bad names. Again old Man Coyote sprang at Reddy, and this time Reddy ran, for he knew that the only Rabbit living in the Old Pasture whose tracks are the sight of those tracks. He guessed right away whose tracks are the reaches of the stablishment.

The next story: "The Bad Temper of the exablishment.

The next story: "The Bad Temper of the exablishment and everyone to machine-like rule is real in America. But I also belie

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the ingredients are on the package.

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pation, biliousness, wind, gas, headaches, flatulency, and to break up fevers and colds.

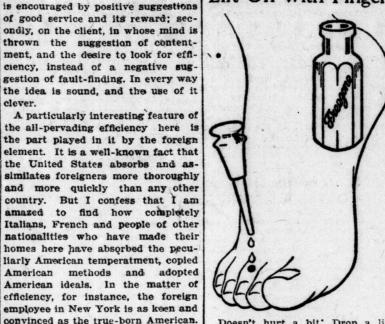
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