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PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS

Now's the time to plan for Christmas. Let's make this one a Joyous Christmas! For over four long years our hearts have been with our boys in France. Now we're going to welcome them home again. Let Music help. Play some of the glorious Victory Marches by the best military bands.

All the world's best music can be in your own home if you have a Victrola.

Come in and see how easy it is to have one.

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WATFORD

PATRIOTISM.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead Who never to himself hath said, 'This is my own, my native land.'"

Thousands upon thousands of men have met untimely deaths during the past four years; never has the love of home and country called for such a sacrifice. Patriotism does not begin nor end with war. We cannot all serve on the battlefield—but we can be as truly patriotic in looking after the welfare of our countrymen here at home.

There is an enemy in our midst—consumption. Lurking in unsuspected places, it seeks but a foothold to drag its victims down to death. Surely it is a true test of love of country to devote our energies and our means towards exterminating such a foe.

We have just learned of a family, once quite comfortable, now in the grip of poverty and misery. The father developed consumption; after a lingering illness that exhausted their savings, he died, leaving the mother and four little ones penniless—worse still, all the children have contracted the same disease. This case is not exceptional, family after family is suffering a similar fate.

The Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives—the pioneer in the war against the Great White Plague—needs your active help to carry on its work. Consumption can be cured if taken in time. Must the fight be lost for lack of funds?

Gifts may be sent to Sir William J. Gage, 84 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, or to George A. Reid, Secretary-Treasurer, Gage Institute, 223 College Street, Toronto.

FREE IN CRITICISM

Marginal Notes Upon Books Are Sometimes Severe.

Readers' Estimates of the Works in a Circulating Library Apt to Be Irritating to Author, if He Saw Them.

Not only is the battered condition of certain works of fiction in circulating libraries a sure proof of their popularity, but one may even gather details from the marginal notes made by feminine readers. It is not sufficient for the commentative pencil to underscore admired passages, observes a writer in the New Orleans Times-Picayune; adjectives of praise also are freely if not always discriminatingly bestowed.

On the closing page of some favorite novel may often be read: "Fine!" "Splendid!" "Lovely!" or—highest commendation of all—"Grand!" One notemaker undertook the large order, "I would read every single word she writes," and another avowed, with more justice than she knew, "You don't often find a book like this."

On the other hand, these unprofessional critics can be terribly severe. A novel which takes them out of their depth is denounced as "A great big bore," or, with rude terseness, "Rot!" or even, in one case of evident exasperation, "You think you know it all." A vigorous commentator on one of Mary Cholmondeley's novels did not wait for the last, but on the first page warned away possible readers with the word, "Punk," and three exclamatory points. The sprawling, unformed hand pursued the author with inveterate scorn throughout the book, manifesting that strange sense of superiority which frequently characterizes ignorance.

A verse of French poetry evoked the impatient query, "Why not write Greek?" while above another was scribbled, "Aw, piffle! We are not all French, you know." Observe that no intellectual curiosity was kindled in that thick brain to know what the French words meant, nor any realization awakened that we enrich ourselves by knowledge of another language.

The author's humorous touches were clearly taken as serious by this outraged reader who, after one passage, wrote mockingly, "My hero!" When a masculine character says something "hoarsely" it is asked with biting sarcasm, "Did he have a cold?"

The hero conducts the heroine through a dark room, "knocking her carefully against pieces of furniture," as usually happens when one person tries to pilot another through obscurity, but this merciless critic demands, "Wasn't he chivalrous?"

Of a tastelessly arranged room the author said, "The furniture was not of the kind that expresses only one idea, and that a bad one," which calls forth the comment, "Like this book." The sun is not permitted to shine "bravely" without the jeer, "The sun ought to have a medal."

Finally the cup of the author's iniquities, so far as the captious reader is concerned, quite overflows, and on the last page we find the verdict, "This book is the biggest ever."

Gunner's Mats Wins Praise.

Frederick Peterson Yost, chief gunner's mate, United States navy, has received a letter commending him for the excellent work of the armed guard of which he was in charge on a cargo ship attacked by a submarine. The promptness with which the submarine was picked up and fired upon and the accuracy of aim proved the efficiency of the gun crew. Yost enlisted in the navy at Philadelphia, Pa., October 3, 1907, and gave as his next of kin his father, Albert John Yost, Centerville, R. I. Here is a characteristic report from this gunner: "Night and fog when a sub was sighted, port bow. Ship started to swing when enemy crossed port bow, giving the appearance of craft from 200 to 300 feet. Showed one gun astern. We fired three shots, one striking conning tower and exploding, while the third shot, fired as the sub got broad off the ship's beam, hit abaft conning tower. Crew of sub taken by surprise, as there were no return shots. We fired still another shot while sub was going under, striking near conning tower. Firing was heard following this attack from a distance, it being learned later that another ship had been attacked and sunk."

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DOING GOOD WORK IN WAR

English Church Army Has Accomplished Much for the Men in the Field, Says Message.

"The English church army is doing a noble work in the war," was the message received in this country by the Episcopal church from the Church of England. "Fully equipped recreation huts, open to men of all creeds, have been established in all training camps in England and Wales. On the French front huts, tents and temporary churches are provided. In all more than 800 of these huts and tents are in use; some in remote places in the north for the men of the navy; others in Malta, Egypt, Palestine, Macedonia, Mesopotamia, East Africa and even in India. Frequently 'last letters' have been written from these huts, bearing the heading, 'Church Army Hut'—letters now treasured by those at home. The bill for writing paper alone is over \$60,000 a year.

"Close to the front line trenches the church army keeps several 'kitchen cars' to supply the men with hot coffee. In England hotels having all the advantages of a club are being maintained, where men are cared for during their furloughs. Prisoners in the hands of the Germans are also cared for by the church army." Recently General Pershing addressed an appreciative letter to Probenary Carille, head of the church army, thanking him for the help the army had been to American soldiers passing through England. It is proposed to maintain a hut to be known as the "General Pershing Hut." The cost of one of these huts equipped, is \$2,500.

ENDS ONE NOISE OF CITIES

Invention of Philadelphia Man Does Away With Racket When Cars Cross Intersection.

The problem of suppressing the noise and shock of the street car in passing over an intersection has been attacked in a novel manner by a Philadelphia inventor, Samuel B. Meeker, who accomplishes the object without the use of any of the moving and interlocking parts which characterize most of the inventions for this purpose, and without making any great changes in the design of the crossing itself. The latter is constructed in one piece or unit, and at a point slightly in advance of the intersection of the rail sections.

Each rail section is formed with the face of the rail cut away in an incline which allows the weight of the vehicle to pass from the base of the wheel to the flange on which it continues for a few feet, until the wheels have passed entirely over the intersection, when the weight of the car again passes to the base of the wheel. This change is so gradually accomplished that it is not noticeable to the passengers and the car passes over the crossing without jolt or noise. The latter is a matter of great importance to persons living in the vicinity of such intersections, for the pounding of the cars over them at night comprises a serious annoyance.

America's First Steel Rails.

In 1865, as an experiment, the North Chicago Rolling Mill company manufactured six Bessemer steel rails from steel produced at Wyandotte, Mich. They were the first made in America, the modest beginning of a great industry. A New York mill, using material turned out at Troy, made further experiments, and in 1867 the Cambria company began to roll Bessemer steel rails as a regular business, says an exchange. The first rails of this type were made and used in England. They were introduced into America by the Pennsylvania railroad, which, in 1855, imported and put into service 100 tons of steel rails. The price paid was \$150 gold per ton, equivalent in Civil War times to \$200 in American currency. These rails were made of crucible steel and contained a high percentage of carbon, rendering them brittle. For this reason many broke during the next winter, but despite this fact the railway company placed orders for large quantities in Great Britain, paying from \$135 to \$162.50 gold per ton.

Conserve Surplus Food.

Increased planting of vegetables this year almost certainly will mean an unprecedented yield of all kinds of fresh vegetables.

This will mean plentiful supplies for summer tables and a large surplus.

This surplus, to be useful to America, must be conserved.

It must be canned, dried, brined or stored in the homes of America.

Home-conserved food means that the home will be more nearly self-sustaining and that the burden on transportation will be lightened.

Women who have never canned should now learn how; women who know how should prepare to do more.

—United States Department of Agriculture.

Rather Risky Proceeding.

The government's efforts to cure the mule of the braying habit reminds the Liberty Tribune that the same problem was up during the Civil war. "Lien, says the Tribune, a Colonel Garland of the Confederate army, afterward attorney general of the United States, asserted that the mule could be made brayless by tying a brick to its tail, as it was impossible for a mule to bray unless it raised its tail and released the clutch on its vocal cord. But wouldn't it be far less dangerous to operate on a mule than so to attach a brick?—Kansas City Times.

Spinach Puff.

With all the other things which the reserve man power of the nation has to worry about at this very peak and crisis, why should the household editor devise an alleged comestible known as spinach puff and spread the plans and specifications just where the noble womankind of the nation will be sure to see them and pounce eagerly upon them?—Ohio State Journal.

Winnipeg Statue Has Close Call.

The fine bronze statue of a winged Mercury carrying a sheaf of grain, which is to be the crowning jewel surmounting Manitoba's new Parliament building, narrowly escaped destruction by a German shell in Paris last month. The building in which it had just been cast was partly destroyed.

Elephant Eats Too Much.

The Food Control Board in Winnipeg has been advised by a Saskatchewan clergyman that a baby elephant visiting his town with a travelling menagerie should be sacrificed as it consumes 250 pounds of wheat, milk and eggs per week. Ottawa will be asked to pronounce judgment.

Newfoundland's Contribution.

The ancient colony of Newfoundland raised \$2,000,000 toward the Victory Loan in three short weeks.

The Terror of Asthma comes like a thief in the night with its dreadful throbbing, robbing its victim of breath. It seems beyond the power of human aid to relieve until one trial is made of that remarkable preparation, Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Asthma remedy. Then relief comes with a rush. Life becomes worth living, and, if the remedy be used persistently, the disease is put permanently to rout. Take no substitute.

Wrist Watches Afloat.

Wrist watches at sea, with their luminous dials, are at once a convenience, a safeguard and a pearl. You can tell the time without tearing your clothes to pieces or going to a light. When you walk along the deck at night you can hold your forearm so that the dial glows in the sight of all who are passing along the deck and thus prevent collisions. If you don't play up your wrist watch, you are supposed to whistle "sweet and low" in the dark as you pass along. But if you are not passing along the deck, only lingering along the deck rail, and are fortunate in having one of the few women who are crossing as your companion in that lingering, your luminous dial at rest on the deck rail is apt to wreck the wonderful sense of seduction that darkened decks give these war times. One heartless patrol a trip or two ago stepped to the rail and asked a dismayed subaltern not to have his wrist watch "quite so far around," whatever that meant, because it might be detected by a submarine.—Nelson Collins in the Century Magazine.

"The Fool Hath Said."

This is a message from one who knows—Coningsby Dawson—to those who do not realize. It is a message direct from the trenches in France by a soldier and writer to us behind the line. He says:

"Life has swung back to a primitive decision since the war commenced. The decision is the same for both men and nations. They can choose the world or achieve their own souls. They can cast mercenary lots for the raiment of a crucified righteousness or take up their martyrdom as disciples. Those men and nations who have been disciples together can scarcely fail to remain friends when the tragedy is ended. What the fool says in his heart at this present moment is not of any lasting importance."—Red Cross Magazine.

Italy's Greatest Harvest.

Italy's soil, which has been cultivated continuously for thousands of years, promises this year to produce the greatest harvest of wheat ever reaped in that country. An Italian professor, a member of a university delegation which visited London recently as guests of the ministry of information, announced that owing to the abundant harvest expected in 1918, he had reason to believe that Italy would be for the first time self-supporting in the matter of grain.

Recognized as the leading specific for the destruction of worms, Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator has proved a boon to suffering children everywhere. It seldom fails.

HOW TO FIGHT SPANISH INFLUENZA

BY DR. L. W. BOWERS.

Avoid crowds, coughs and crows, but fear neither germs nor Germans! Keep the system in good order, take plenty of exercise in the fresh air and practice cleanliness. Remember a clean mouth, a clean skin, and clean bowels are a protecting armour against disease. To keep the liver and bowels regular and to carry away the poisons within, it is best to take a vegetable pill every other day, made up of May-apple, aloes, jalap, and sugar-coated, to be had at most drug stores, known as Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. If there is a sudden onset of what appears like a hard cold, one should go to bed, wrap warm, take a hot mustard foot-bath and drink copiously of hot lemonade. If pain develops in head or back, ask the druggist for Anuric (anti-uric) tablets. These will flush the bladder and kidneys and carry off poisonous germs. To control the pains and aches take one Anuric tablet every two hours, with frequent drinks of lemonade. The pneumonia appears in a most treacherous way, when the influenza victim is apparently recovering and anxious to leave his bed. In recovering from a bad attack of influenza or pneumonia the system should be built up with a good herbal tonic, such as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, made without alcohol from the roots and barks of American forest trees, or his Ironie (iron tonic) tablets, which can be obtained at most drug stores, or send 10c. to Dr. Pierce's Invalids' Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y., for trial package.

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CHANTRY FARM

Shorthorn Cattle and Lincoln Sheep

I still have three registered cows and three yearling heifers for sale at prices anyone can afford to pay. Also one roan bull calf ten months' old. A number of shearing rams and ram lambs for sale or hire at reasonable rates. Can spare a few right good ewe lambs.

ED de GEX, Kerwood P.O.

The Hospital for Sick

TORONTO

War Laid Heavy Hand on Charity.

Dear Mr. Editor:—The annual report of the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, new record, despite the handicap the war placed upon the youngsters of this year.

The task of ministering to the youngsters of this year is a light one in view of the splendid response to the 25 doctors and 43 nurse forces have seen service.

Yet the number of patients is 5,048, or 1,308 more than these in-patients, 759, 266 places outside of Toronto.

The tireless efforts of the staff made possible also a reduction in the average length of stay in the little patients from 1914 to 14 this year.

These results show that the hospital has again paid its rich dividends of health and vested kindness of its staff.

There has been careful of the funds entrusted to it. There has been saving—albeit in every direction it would prevent the Hoopling the suffering or the sickness of one child. The of operation was held at point which would still children entrusted to the get the best medicine and care.

And yet so high has risen every item in the Hospital's labor, in fuel, in food, in medical supplies—the minimum expense of taking child for one day has risen back in 1914 to \$3.21% that, \$1.66%—the amount per day that the official grants do not cover—must voluntary contributions.

During the past four were incurred to the extent of \$100,000, which the Trustees would be wiped out by the soon as the war drew to a close. These heavy demands have been made upon the of the loyal people of the time has now come necessary to make known the dire need of financial assistance.

If this 43rd Christmas to rally the friends of the its support, it will be a mortgage its land, building By the bounty of the late Robertson that property he cleared of debt for the firm it began its ministry of the Little children have hearted friend, and the noble benefactor. It is to decide whether his life be shadowed with a mort less than a year of his p

What think you?

Send your answer as s sible to the Secretary-Tre of Toronto. Meanwhile the "Carry on," trusting in you IRVING E. ROBE Chairman of Appeal

WINTER TERM OPENS J

ELLIOTT BUSINESS

Yonge and Charles Sts., Has recently had positions t \$14, \$17 and \$18 a week and a course here is a sure rot position. Write to-day for W. J. ELLIOTT, Pri

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