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NOV 30, 1921

## Side Talks by Ruth Cameron

### ON CHRISTMAS CARDS.



Illustration of a Christmas card.

There never was a pleasant Christmas custom, I think, than the custom of sending Christmas greetings to one's friends. And there never was a custom more abused. The sending of some simple attractive card to give in effect, "I am thinking of you today because I always think of those I love on Christmas and wish them happiness," is a true manifestation of the Christmas spirit.

But the business-like sending out of large numbers of cards, the worry that you will overlook someone who is going to send you a card, the anxiety to get cards that look as expensive for the money as possible, the consideration as to whether to send this or that person a five or a ten, or a two for five, all make the custom into a travesty on the Christmas spirit, a true manifestation of the commercial exchange spirit which has driven the spirit of Christmas out of so many hearts.

**The Christmas Card Custom.**  
In many lives, card sending is a new ball which rolls itself bigger and bigger as the sender gathers new friends every year.

I suppose the only way to prevent this is to blue pencil your list pretty severely, to keep it down to those whom you truly want to say "I am thinking of you to-day." Then don't be yourself if fretted if you do get cards from some people to whom you didn't send them. It really isn't a serious matter, you know. It only seems so because it is the day after Christmas and you are looking over your cards in the mood of let-downness and reaction which makes any little annoyance or mistake or disappointment seem all out of proportion.

**Get Them Ready Early.**  
Another way to help the situation is to get your Christmas cards bought and written early. It is twice as easy to buy them if you start before the crowd comes and the stock has been depleted. And if you write them in your spare evenings before the last crowded week or two, you will

be able to put real friendship into your messages. You notice I speak of picking out the cards as if that were a matter requiring considerable thought. I am aware that many people have a simpler solution. They select one card with a conventional greeting covering any friend or acquaintance, and have their names printed or engraved upon it. Then all they have to do is to address the envelopes.

**The Fireplace Without a Fire.**  
Doubtless you will think me old-fashioned but I have never yet been reconciled to that custom. They are all right for acquaintances or business friends but they always seem to me almost rude to send to a real friend. A formal card with a sender's name written in his or her own handwriting is little enough trouble to take, but when the name is merely engraved or printed, it certainly seems like a canned greeting. All that is left now is for some enterprising firm to offer to take lists of names and send the cards out without any bother to the sender.

To me the ideal Christmas greeting is a Christmas letter, but of course one cannot send many of those. Next comes the Christmas card with some printed sentiment on it that makes one feel it has really been chosen for oneself, and at least the sender's name and perhaps a few words of greeting. A single line of greeting gives it a human warmth that it cannot get otherwise. A card with the sender's name and greeting engraved always seems to me like a very fine looking hearth with a fire neatly laid upon it—but not lit.

**To-morrow—The Art of Living in Rented Rooms.**

**Household Notes.**  
Rib chops are cheaper and there is less waste to them than kidney chops. Start your Christmas dates with crystallized ginger or candied orange peel.

If no other baking is being done, bake the cake in the middle of the oven.

If a soft filling is used for the cake sprinkle the top with powdered sugar. Bread and rolls are ready for the oven when they have risen to twice their bulk.

## Billiards.

### IS WILLIE SMITH LIKELY TO GO STALE?

(By Melbourne Inman, Professional Champion, 1912 to 1920.)

I cannot say that I am getting things my own way in the various games I have had so far. The lads seem to find their form a lot quicker than I ever managed to do. The old-time professionals were satisfied if they began to connect with their best performances about the end of the year. I suppose I fell into the same habit through my early acquaintance with John Roberts, Billy Mitchell, Jack North, Joe Mack and others. A pretty tough batch of money-match players this—better than at exhibition games by far. The up-to-date idea seems to be to get little, if anything, short of your very best and keep at top-pitch from one end of the season to the other. It is a bigger strain than many suppose. And when a player does go stale he is the last word in loss of ordinary skill. It will be interesting, as well as instructive, to see how Willie Smith shapes in the second half of the season. He is certainly playing wonderfully well just now. He has beaten me quite on my merits. Matters might have been a bit more kindly disposed towards me than they have been. A return of my old complaint, vertigo or giddiness, came me to any something about it the other evening. I did so much for the purpose of gaining a short spell of rest as anything else. There was some idea of playing a fresh game, but I thought I would see it out. Also I heard that Smith was offering to give me a start. We've heard of that kind of offer before. Nobody knows or should know better than Smith that he has no more chance of giving me a start than of climbing up to the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral. I would like it to be generally understood that billiards, as played by the leading professionals, depends a good deal on how the conditions suit both players. If one of them is exceptionally favoured, a state of affairs not at all unknown, he comes sailing along, the easiest of winners. Put the same two players together a week on another table, with a fresh set of balls, and a different result is not out of the question. Now then—in my match with Smith we had to play for the first five days with a very close-grained set of ivory balls. As a matter of fact, they more resembled the heavier composition balls in their springiness and acute throw-off. Try as I would, I could never control them nor gauge the "angle" with the degree of accuracy required. Judging by the confident way Smith played at them and the success of his shots, he might well have graduated as a composition-ball player. At the end of five days, when the scoring-board

LOOKED VERY UNKINDLY ON ME a new set of balls was provided. My long experience enables me to tell at almost the second shot whether I shall be able to play my real game. And I am convinced, as I always have been, that, given suitable conditions to my own particular kind of billiards, I can still hold my end up against anyone. You can be dead out of luck at this kind of thing. I am passing through a rare run of it. If ever I do get the conditions which suit me, somebody will be knowing about it. I ought to let it be known how pleased I am to see the second-class members of our profession coming to the front so well. Please don't throw any bouquets at me for my tip as to the winner of the second-class tournament. Yet I'd like to remind you that I coupled Arthur Peall, the scratch man, with young Davis, of Chesterfield (750 start), and that they finished first and second in the given order. I am going to say again that Peall is a chip of the old block. His father, W. J. Peall is the old spot-stroke champion. Curiously enough, the

veteran was about the last of any of us to recognise the undoubted talent possessed by Arthur, who hid his light under a bushel for several years before it could be plainly seen. A lot of flattering remarks are being made concerning the abilities of the 20-year-old youngster, Joe Davis, of Chesterfield. He is a very clever player for one of his age, and remarkably like my old friend, Tom Reeca, in height and build. His style and ideas also curiously resemble those of Reeca. The youngster ought to make good. He is being given a thorough try-out by the Manchester veteran, Edward Diggle, one of the strongest scorers of his day, and a rare model for anyone to copy in his way of putting a "break" together. Diggle was one of my most severe schoolmasters, and I can truly say that what I learned from him helped me no end on the long road to the championship. The old style of shaping at the table was to have the head and shoulders well up in the air. None held them higher than Diggle. The contrast of his stance with the chin-right-down on-the-cue modern style of Davis ought to be interesting. I shouldn't be at all surprised to find Diggle well holding his own. He is one of those who couldn't do badly with a cue in his hand if he tried.—News of the World.

Buy Stafford's Ginger Wine. One 20c. bottle makes nearly a gallon of the best Ginger Wine. dec 7, 11

### Battleship for Canned Goods.

"The breaking up of battleships involves, as a rule, the cutting of the plates by means of the oxy-acetylene flame into pieces small enough to be inserted through the doors of blast furnaces. The maximum size of these pieces is generally 5 ft. by 2 ft. 6 in. "South Wales is a large consumer of scrap metal, especially in connection with the manufacture of tin plate, so that it is a fact that the Dreadnought of to-day will probably form the basis of the receptacles of the canned goods of a few years hence," says the Times. This is the modern version of the sword to ploughshare vision.

## MOTHER!

Open Child's Bowels with "California Fig Syrup"



Hurry Mother! A teaspoonful of "California Fig Syrup" now will thoroughly clean the little bowels and in a few hours you have a well, playful child again. Even a cross, feverish, constipated child loves its "fruity" taste, and mothers can rest easy because it never fails to work all the sour bile and poisons right out of the stomach and bowels without griping or upsetting the child. Tell your druggist you want only the genuine "California Fig Syrup" which has directions for babies and children of all ages printed on bottle. Mother, you must say "California." Refuse any imitation.

### HAINES' WARNING.

It's Dry Law Hainees who now explains that bootleg drinks are deadly; so let's eschew the poisoned brew, and cease to part things redly. This Dry Law Hainees is taking pains to warn us of our danger; he hates to see the graveyard tea-kill off the pilgrim stranger. The "bootleg drinks" are made by ginks who are not moral dandies, and he is wise to all their ryes, their bourbons, gins and brandies. Of poisons dire and liquid fire they are a sinful medley, and Brother Hainees, he still maintains that bootleg drinks are deadly. And Comrade Hainees, a man of brains and sense, of what he's speaking, he tells among the jug and bung and spigot sadly leaking. He samples rye and finds it lye, all kinds of booze he handles; he finds one brew has liquid glue, put in by Goths and Vandals. "Oh, fakes and janes," cries Helpful Hainees, "let's all apply the water to those who sell this broth of hell that makes the reason gutter. It strikes me blind and wrecks the mind that once was grand and gaudy; so let us flay the heartless jay who sells this bone-yard toddy." This speaketh Hainees; applauses he gains from those sober thinkers who've marked the fate that seems to wait for bootleg whiskey drinkers.

### Helium Inflated Airships.

NORFOLK, Va.—By three flights with her bag filled with helium, the big navy dirigible C-7 has proved that the newly discovered gas can be used by lighter-than-air flying machines. Helium is non-inflammable. The helium used in inflating the C-7 is the product of the government plant at Fort Worth. Helium can be made in commercial quantities only from the oil obtained from certain wells in Oklahoma and Texas fields, and the United States, if necessary, can prevent other nations from obtaining it and thus possess great military advantages over them. The plant at Fort Worth, which cost several million dollars, was built during the war and is now under the joint operation of the army and navy. Helium is separated from the other gases in the oil by means of complicated refrigerating apparatus and the process is costly. The high cost of the gas, according to the aviator, is its only drawback.

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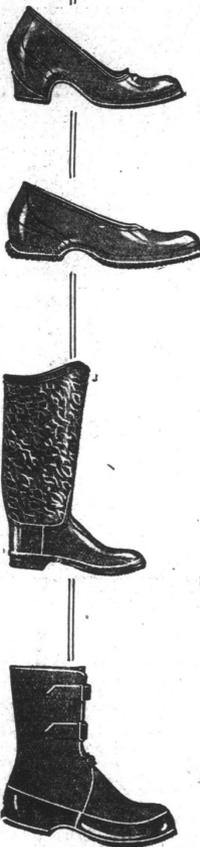
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WHOLESALE.

## Why a Healthy Person Very Seldom Worries—

Worry is simply fear of misfortune. It overburdens your mind, and oftentimes creates physical disorders. Your nervous system and mentality are under such a strain that sleepless nights result. Without refreshing sleep, your whole physical and mental well-being suffers.

A healthy man seldom worries. Physical exhilaration supplies ease and optimism to the mind. Only those whose nervous systems are worn-down are irritable, languid and depressed.

Eminent physicians state that many cases of nerve trouble are caused by drinking tea or coffee. The drugs, then and caffeine, contained in these drinks over-stimulate the entire system, often causing the serious ills which result from disturbing the regular bodily functions. Repetition only makes matters worse.

Why not stop drinking tea and coffee and drink Postum instead? Postum is the delicious, healthful beverage—satisfying in flavor. Drink Postum for 10 days and notice the difference. Your irritated nerves will be strengthened because Postum lets you get the deep, restful sleep you need.

Postum comes in two forms: Instant Postum (in tins) made instantly in the cup by the addition of boiling water. Postum Cereal (in packages of larger bulk, for those who prefer to make the drink while the meal is being prepared) made by boiling for 20 minutes. Sold by all grocers.



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