

THE TOWER HOME OF BIG BEN

TAKING UP OLD REMEDIES

Tendency Among Medical Men to Resort to the Roots and Herbs Used by Our Forefathers.

There is apparently a well-developed tendency among physicians to abandon many of the compounds put on the market in recent years, and to take up once more the "roots and herbs" of old-time doctors as healing agents. In the face of criticism that medical students do not learn as much about materia medica and allied subjects as their forefathers a generation or two ago were taught, the authoritative statement is made by The New York Medical Journal that medical instructors are now guarding against the threat of proprietary remedies. The article says:

"Through joint meetings of medical and pharmaceutical associations, held with the object of arousing a greater amount of interest in the study of the United States Pharmacopoeia and the National Formulary, attention has been focused on the alleged neglect of medical colleges to equip their students with a sufficient knowledge of applied therapeutics and materia medica to enable them to construct a magisterial formula.

"The advocates of a closer adherence to the principles of what has been termed ethical prescribing insist that the newer graduates of medicine leave college without that intimate acquaintance with the properties of drugs, physical, chemical and therapeutical, that distinguished the older school of medicine, and are left at the mercy of the persuasive representatives of the manufacturing pharmacists, who have been crammed with ready-made compounds regarding drug therapy, and who find it an easy matter to convince the average practicing physician that the compound or series of compounds which they are exploiting for the moment will fit any condition mentioned on the label of the container or in the literature which accompanied the package.

"On the other hand there are those and pharmacists and apothecaries are chief among them, who protest that too much instruction in pharmacy in dispensing, and in the properties of drugs is conducive to the usurping of the apothecary's or pharmacist's prerogative by physicians. It will be seen that we are placed between two fires. If we prescribe proprietary medicinal compounds, we leave ourselves open to the charge of being unable to formulate mixtures or order a drug or drugs to meet the indications before us.

"And if we prefer to treat our patients without the intervention of dispensing pharmacists, by giving them the appropriate medicaments from our own carefully selected stores of preparations, pills, tablets, mixtures, cachets, or whatever we may decide is best, making our selection on the superior knowledge of applied therapeutics and dispensing obtained in clinical work and general practice, we lay ourselves open to the condemnation of the same individuals, who rail at our lack of knowledge of applied therapeutics and the formulation of prescriptions.

"That there is some justification or the charge of neglect of prescription work in the medical schools nobody can gainsay. But it is also true that substantial progress has been made during the last decade. Instructors have awakened to the necessity of relieving their future graduates from the thrall of the proprietary medicine manufacturer. In the days of Ringer and Bartholow practicing physicians had a better knowledge of the action of drugs, their properties when combined, and the technique of combination than is characteristic of them today.

"But that was antecedent to the use of the synthetic chemical compound, when medicine had not been snatched away from the simpler vegetable drugs and combinations, but was hopeful that we shall return once more to the use of the medicinal plants and drugs for the utility of which the experience of thousands of years vouches. This sentiment has been expressed recently by an eminent teacher of pharmacology, who, in a speech at the annual meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Medicine, having thoroughly ruined digestion with synthetic remedies, tested all the organs of the animal body, will return once more to vegetable drugs and employ them to a greater extent than it does at present. The tendency of the times is in this direction; more and more attention is being paid in the schools to investigation of plant constituents, and it is not unlikely that through combined work of pharmacologists and teachers of medicine should the teachers of medicine should be able to lead back to the use of vegetable drugs and away from synthetics, which are now enjoying so great a vogue."

MID'S FUNDS STILL INTACT

Berlin, May 6.—The provincial government of Berlin has frustrated the efforts of the Turkish Government to secure possession of the \$3,000,000 deposited by the Imperial Bank of Germany in the Turkish Government. The sultan, Abdul Hamid, the since deposed sultan, had been asked to allow the Turkish Government to use the funds as a loan, but he had refused to surrender the money because the order for them not bear the secret seal agreed upon when the deposit was made. Subsequently the bank took the additional ground that the former sultan practically a prisoner was not position to give a voluntary order for the disposition of his money. This view was sustained by the court, and a decision was given by the court that the sultan had no right to dispose of his money but was under compulsion by the German Government.

PICTURES ARE TRANSMITTED BY WIRELESS

English Inventor Exhibits Apparatus and Receives Pictures Before Royal Institution of London.

Prof. T. Thorne Baker, F. C. S., has explained for the benefit of the Royal Institution of London the two systems of transmitting pictures by wire used by himself and Prof. Korn.

He made the announcement that he had succeeded in adopting his system to the transmission of pictures by wireless. He also showed for the first time a portable apparatus.

At the close of the lecture a telephone message from the Daily Mirror office at Manchester received at the lecturer's table announced that a picture would be transmitted. A telegraph was connected with a direct Manchester-London wire, and the audience crowded around the table to see the portrait of a woman make its appearance dot by dot on the sensitized paper. In seven minutes Mr. Baker lifted the paper from the cylinder and passed the finished portrait around the lecture room. Warm congratulations were showered upon the inventor at the successful conclusion of the trial.

Although there was not time to show an actual transmission by wireless, Mr. Baker threw on the scene two sketches which had been sent in this manner. The first was a line portrait of the King. In the second an island was seen and a lighthouse or fort. By means of letters, the positions of sections of an army on the island were designated, while the shaded portion might mean that the "enemy" was in that part of the island.

"Such plans as these," said Mr. Baker, "could be drawn direct in shell-lac ink upon a slip of metallic foil, placed in a portable machine coupled to a portable military wireless, and communicated from one section of an army to another. The small portable machines I have already shown are used for the wireless transmissions, and they possess the advantage that 'tapping' of the communications would be quite impossible. In describing his 'telegraph' system Mr. Baker stated that it has been in use by the Daily Mirror since July, 1909, for transmission of photographs, and has been worked regularly between Paris and London and between Manchester and London. Photographs taken in court in the St. Paul case were actually received in London before the court rose, a day being gained in the time of publication.

Dealing with the Korn selenium instrument, the lecturer made the announcement that the Daily Mirror had worked on two new instruments with a view to transmitting photographs from New York to London.

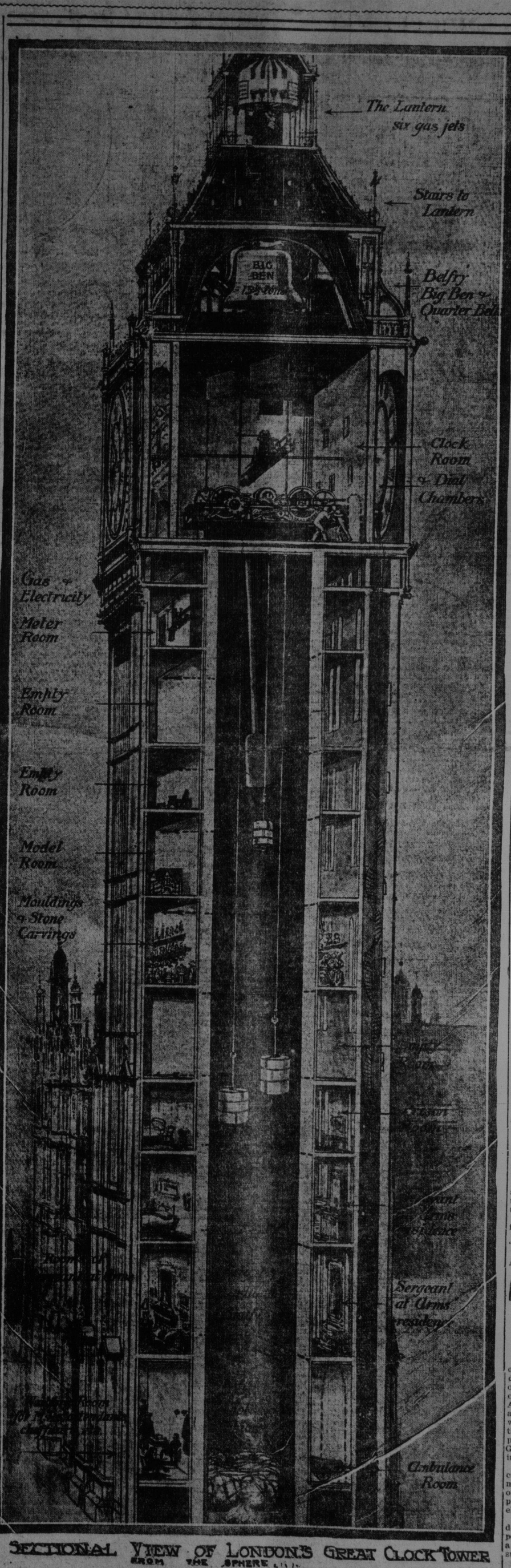
RICH HARVEST IN STORE FOR AVIATORS

Lord Northcliffe Offers Two Additional Prizes for Air Flights with London as the Starting Point.

"The London Daily Mail's successful advertisement of its own enterprise is conducted on the instalment plan. Louis Paulhan has received 10,000 pounds in golden guineas, and the Duke of Argyll announced that a second prize of 10,000 pounds would be offered for the first British aviator flying from London to Edinburgh and back, a distance by railway of four hundred miles. The competition is reserved exclusively for British subjects, and no foreigner can win the next prize by starting when a British sportsman is taking a quiet nap. A second prize is also offered for a London to Paris contest.

The luncheon at which the first prize was awarded was a delightful affair, about three hundred guests, with many titled sportsmen, enjoying the hospitality of The Daily Mail. The decorations were most ingenious, a biplane in white flowers and evergreen being above the principle table, and M. Paulhan's principle victories being recorded on supporting columns at the Savoy dining hall. Speeches by the Duke of Argyll and the French Ambassador in volved the exchange of handsome compliments for the two nations and Lord Northcliffe, and there was genuine enthusiasm when the two heroes of the flight from London to Manchester responded. M. Paulhan read his reply in French with unaffected modesty, and gave to Graham White generous praise for his gift, attributing his own success to superior luck.

When the courageous aviator in the air had dropped into his chair, with an approving smile from Mme. Paulhan, Graham White received a consultation cup, worth \$500, and made a sportsmanlike speech in the best possible temper. He announced that he would devote the funds being collected by popular subscription as a testimonial to his prowess to the immediate organization of plans for a flight from London to Paris. His reception was even more cordial than the greeting which M. Paulhan received, and his mother and sister glanced at him proudly, as if he had won a greater victory than the capture of the big prize. M. Paulhan's friends accompanied him to Charing Cross, where he was warmly cheered before his departure on the train for Folkestone.



LONDON IS WORRIED OVER CLOCK

Cracked Tones of Great Time-piece Regarded as a National Disgrace by Residents of Metropolis.

"Big Ben," London's most notable clock, is regarded in the British metropolis as almost a national institution, and considerable worry has been caused because its voice has recently become cracked.

"The bell has been badly used," said Mr. W. W. Starnes at the Royal Institution, "as nothing but serious injury could result from the cutting of the holes in the sound bowls. It was said that the holes were cut to ascertain the extent of the crack. The holes and the crack, apart from any other considerations, seriously marred the tone of the bell."

The Sphere has published a unique view of the tall tower at Westminster in which "Big Ben" has its home. No architects' drawings or engineers' plans were available for the artist's assistance, so that the drawing had to be made from personal inspection of each part of the tower. For the purpose of explaining the contents of the tower thoroughly to the reader a sectional treatment has been adopted. The whole of the side facing the north has for the purpose of this drawing been removed. The most salient feature thus revealed is the great weight and pendulum shaft, one side of which is formed by the outer wall, the other sides being internal walls. The various compartments and store rooms shown run around three sides of the tower.

Starting at the bottom of the tower the presence of some huge wool cushions has to be noticed. These are to preserve the weights or pendulums from breaking in case they should fall. The fire indicated is really a grate for the cushions. Its purpose is to create a draught and clarify the air in the shaft.

Climbing upward one reaches the waiting room for members of Parliament's attendants and chaffeurs. Above are the rooms of the sergeants at arms. Above these two stories is the Parliamentary prison room, to which Parliamentary offenders are liable to be sent. The next floor is at present empty. The floor above is occupied by a store of mouldings and stone carvings used for storing the Gothic embellishments of the tower. The floor above is a clock room, and two succeeding stories are at present empty. Mounting still higher, one reaches the gas and electricity meter room. Then a few steps take one in to the clock room itself.

Doors communicate with the bell chambers. Above the clock room is the belfry, in which hang "Big Ben" and the quarter bells. The stairs from this belfry lead to the lantern from which rays of light penetrate the city's gloom when the House is in sitting. The lantern is in this case consists of six gas jets. A magnificent view of Westminster is obtained from this gallery.

Here are some striking facts about "Big Ben."

It is the largest striking, most powerful and most accurate public clock in the world, the first blow on "Big Ben" at each hour denoting correct time. The four dials are each twenty-three feet in diameter, the centres being 150 feet from the ground. The figures are two feet long and the minute spaces one foot square.

The minute hands are fourteen feet long and weigh about two cwt. each. They are made of copper and travel a distance equal to a hundred miles each year.

The hour hands are nine feet long. The pendulum is thirteen feet long, beating two seconds; the bob of the pendulum weighs four cwt.

The weights of the clock weigh nearly two and one-half tons. It takes two men five hours three times a week to wind it up and there are 374 steps up to the clock room.

"Big Ben" the bell on which the clock strikes the hours, weighs 13½ tons and the hammer weighs four cwt. The four quarter bells weigh nearly eight tons, viz.:—Three tons eighteen cwt., one ton thirteen cwt., one ton six cwt., and one ton one cwt. respectively.

Twice a day it telegraphs its time automatically to Greenwich Observatory, which enables its performance to be checked.

The chimes of Big Ben are set to the following lines:—

"All through this hour, Lord, be my guide,
And by Thy power no foot shall slide."

AUSTRIAN CONFESSES TO WHOLESALE MURDER

Vienna, May 6.—The mystery of the origin of the wholesale poisoning plot directed against recently promoted officers of the Austrian army has been cleared by the confession of Lieut. Adolf Hofrichter. The lieutenant was arrested on November 27 charged with poisoning, and today he admitted that he had sent capsules containing prussic acid to ten members of the General Staff with the object of poisoning them.

Inclosed with the capsules was a circular recommending their use for medicinal purposes. Capt. Mader, one of the officers addressed, took the preparation and died almost immediately.

Lieut. Hofrichter in his confession declared that his sole motive for the poisonings was a hope of becoming a staff officer through the death of his superiors.

The prisoner is now liable to a sentence of death or life imprisonment which the Austrian military law prohibits, except when an accused makes a formal confession.

REVIVAL OF BEAGLING

Good old Sport Fit for Active Men and Women Becoming Popular Once More—Enophon Liked It.

The revival of beagling in England is the subject of much delighted comment by the numerous Dianas who according to the lady's Pictorial while lovers of hunting are unfortunately dependent on shank's mare or the bicycle for their means of locomotion.

That it takes a sportsman or sports-woman in the fullest sense of the word to appreciate hunting on foot is self-evident. No pomp and pageantry of the chase awaits the merry beagler no modest feminine attractions of smart habits and the consciousness of looking your best in a topper.

Old clothes, short skirts, stout boots and a good ordnance map of the country, these constitute the beagler's outfit; yet has not the immortal Jorjor declared that "if some of the keen foot folk could but change places with the 'fuming' yards of leather and scarlet, not a much better chance there would be for the chase?" That the hunting of the hare is an honorable and ancient sport is a fact of which most people are aware; how ancient, however, and through how many centuries it has been pursued is perhaps not quite so well known. Xenophon himself, along about 360 B. C., beagled so enthusiastically that he wrote a book about it.

To the question What is a beagle? the answer given by the dictionary is: "A small hound used chiefly to hunt hares." The old fashioned beagle was practically a miniature edition of the old southern hound of England both in appearance and in his style of hunting, varying in height from ten to fifteen inches; his most marked characteristics were a broad head, long ears, short legs, a somewhat heavy body and a remarkably fine voice.

In contradistinction to the north country beagle described by an old writer as being "nimble and vigorous, pursuing the hare with impetuosity, and giving her no time to draw the old fashioned beagle excelled in working out a cold scent, and if given sufficient time would unravel, 'wile the hare was in the open'." The beagle was a "wile" hound, and the word "wile" is derived from the old Saxon word "wile" meaning to hunt.

Not only is beagling a most wholesome and healthy winter sport, but it is also quite an inexpensive amusement. It is quite possible with economy to maintain a pack of ten or twelve couple of hounds, feeding, licensing and the wages of a capable kennel huntsman and feeder, on 60 or 70 pounds a year, provided of course that the master or mistress of the pack is prepared to spend a good deal of time in kennel, exercising hounds, &c. The subscriptions are the same, and for the modest sum of two or three guineas a season those who hunt with a pack of foot beagles can obtain an incalculable amount of enjoyment twice a week during five or six months of the year.

Lieut. Hofrichter's wife is suspected of complicity in her husband's attempt on the lives of the officers, and is undergoing examination by a Magistrate.

After having been a Lieutenant in the Austrian army for several years Hofrichter took the examination for a Captaincy last autumn. Thirty-two men came out ahead of him, and only thirty men altogether could get the promotion. A few weeks after the results of the examination were announced Capt. Mader and nine of the other officers who had received the rank of Captain as a result of the examination received each a box of capsules. A mimeographed letter accompanying each box explained that they were a health tonic. Capt. Mader alone tried one of the capsules. He died in terrible agony. An autopsy showed that he had been poisoned by a combination of cyanide of potassium and prussic acid.

The letter sent him with the capsules was lost. But the letters sent to the other nine Captains were preserved. All alike were mimeographed in the style commonly used in making military maps. They purported to come from a druggist, one "Charles Francis." At first it was thought that the poison capsules had been sent by some enemy outside the army. Then it was reasoned out that one of the disappointed candidates in the Captaincy examinations might be the guilty man. Hofrichter's handwriting was found to resemble the signature of the mimeographed letters. It was found that on November 14, the date shown in the postmark on the letters, Hofrichter had been in one of the towns from which the letters were mailed. A fellow-officer also came forward and testified that Hofrichter had given him a small box similar to the boxes in which the capsules had been received.

Hofrichter accordingly was arrested at his home in Linz and taken before a military court martial. A search of his house revealed capsules containing prussic acid. It was found further that he had bought all the ingredients of the capsules in Linz, and had made a druggist show him how to make up the capsules and writing paper were traced to the stores where he bought them.

It appeared that he had bought the prussic acid ostensibly for photographic purposes. The ink at the army post where he was stationed was shown to be the same that had been used on the mimeographed letters. Where he got the mimeograph was the only missing link in the chain. Nevertheless, for a long time Hofrichter could not deny that he knew anything about the matter. It was not until yesterday that he broke down and confessed.