

LEARN TO THINK.

The man who has learned to think is an educated man whether or not he has ever seen the inside of a college or even of a high school.

It strikes some students of aspects of the world unrest as rather strange that such a large proportion of the red agitators who have been brought to book recently have been Spaniards or of other European races which had little to do with the recent war.

Among the unobtrusive disappearances which the end of the war brought about is that of Karl Mosner, the Boswell of the former Emperor William, and the author of that monarch's violet-picking feat on the field of battle.

General Candido Aguilar says the differences between Mexico and the United States would be settled amicably if the American people would "trust in the good faith of the Mexican government."

Chairs of aeronautics are now being established in prominent English colleges. It may be that in the near future only the conservative and old-fashioned will use automobiles or move freight by such slow methods as express railroad trains.

The yeomanette is to go. She was one of the most picturesque features of the war and she did her work well, and many will lament her passing. But the emergency to which she owed her official being is over, and private life will soon absorb the feminine auxiliary to the army and navy.

The German military leaders who are trying to assume responsibility for the ex-kaiser's acts need not be anxious to overburden themselves. They will have plenty on their hands in respect to their own responsibilities.

The steel and copper plate printers declare that the nation's paper currency is old and soiled and germ laden, and menaces the public health. The horse some people's health is menaced the better they like it.

Army camera chief says Pershing was disgusted because they took in all 15,000 feet in films of him. Seems that in 15,000 feet of films they could have gotten a few good enough to satisfy him.

"Four hundred alien enemies on their way to be deported." If we are to have a nation, only American ways, and American doings and American talk should be tolerated in this country.

Almost every notable document has its pet word; the peace treaty's is 'agenda,' but nobody yet has tried to derive it from propaganda or trace it to innocuous desuetude.

Money is a good thing, but it has its weak points. It ruins many more children than it starves.

U. S. BANKERS IN WORLD.

America is now called upon to play a role undreamed of in former years in international commerce and finance. This country has become the one great source of long-time capital in the world.

Woman now takes the lead in aggressiveness; husbands actually have been severely beaten, and the husband beaters admit the whippings, but allege they were deserved. The world is upside down, and all things have changed.

A good deal has been written of crime in Germany under war conditions. Evidently there has been a growing moral laxity there, says Providence Journal. Now we are told that a band of scientific burglars has been arrested at Berlin—they intended to rob the city "by sections, dealing with profession after profession, and beginning with cinema stars, the most likely to have money in modern Berlin."

Two women were killed and a man badly injured when an airplane attempted a landing. Every new invention thus adds a danger to civilization, the prospect of being run down from the air being a particularly appalling one, as the pedestrian has every right to claim the right of way on the surface of the earth.

A congressional leader likens the cost of living to a pendulum, a fine figure of speech except for the generally accepted fact that in reality it is an upward-bound skyrocket with an unlimited supply of fuel and apparently a determination to prove that what goes up may keep on going up.

Now that slaughter has been stopped overseas, if it is, in the opinion of many thoughtful students of present conditions, that attention should be turned to abolishing the automobile killings on this side, as their rate is steadily increasing.

The Huns may have no sense of humor, but their solemn description of Germany "at the head of the oppressed peoples of the earth" is certainly a huge joke on the champion nation oppressor of the world.

Thousands of foreigners are sailing daily from American ports to the old country. For many of them, although they may not know it, it is a one-way trip. Uncle Sam is going to be more particular henceforth.

France is suffering from drought, which will be accepted by some as further evidence that those rains of which our soldiers complained were caused by the firing of the heavy artillery.

American aviators crossed the Atlantic first. Then British aviators went them one better by making it a nonstop flight. It's up to the Yankees to fly across the Pacific.

Bolshevism is becoming daily more unpopular in Russia since it has resorted to the simple but too primitive method of killing all those opposed to it.

The British empire owes the United States four billion dollars. But Uncle Sam knows it's good.

EDUCATIONAL PRAKADOPHY.

"The world in which we live must be brought more fully into the school house," says a bulletin from the Department of education. This is well enough as a way of putting the demand for expansion of school interest. But the really important thing is to make more of the world live in the pupils.

The lesson of sound investment has been learned by many millions through the liberty and victory loan campaigns. The moral of the campaigns has probably been lost on great numbers of men, but the lesson will stick in millions of minds. The other lesson—gardening—has been learned by great numbers whose hands had never before known the pleasant feel of a hoe handle, says Washington Star.

The brutal U-boat commanders are to be put on trial. If they are found guilty of sinking hospital ships, of firing on lifeboats and deliberately drowning their prisoners, there will probably be no voice raised against their capital punishment, for even orders could not relieve the doers of such illegal and inhuman deeds of personal responsibility.

Count Sergius Witte, who died two years before the czar was overthrown, was perhaps the best informed of Russians on diplomatic matters, though he officially retired in 1906. His widow has arranged for the publication of Witte's "Memoirs" in the United States. They may throw much light on Russia's part in the beginning of the world war.

Over seven million and a half represent the total paid in human life as the price of the world war, says Baltimore American. It would be unthinkable if this tremendous crime against humanity should go into history without its authors and their punishment going along with them as a lesson to future generations.

It is a pity that the self-styled war lord who told Ambassador Gerard he would stand no nonsense from America, did not tarry long enough to see the American doughboys raise old Glory over the Rhine. He would have realized then how little nonsense he would have been called upon to stand.

Influenza, says a physician, is no worse than a boil on the neck. His belittling of boils on the neck seems to prove that his experience with such has been confined mainly to boils other persons have had.

There are exceptions to all rules, of course, so don't jump in to deny when we say that the average man who has more money than he has brains is usually a man who has very little money.

A large number of automobile accidents seem to be caused by the impression of each individual motorist that the burden of care and prudence is always on the other fellow.

"Polish Premier Paderewski Proposes Probe of Pogrom Charges," says a headline. Which is the most alliterative news since Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pickled Peppers.

Heat waves may be broken, but the weather man loses no time in putting them together again.

Anyway, the common-sense shoe and the hobble skirt form a queer combination.

HUMOR IN IMPOTENT RAGE

French Peasant Women's Denunciation of German Artillerymen at Once Ludicrous and Pathetic.

Lieut. J. M. Cavanaugh, who was with the first platoon of the Three Hundred and Fifty-third infantry of the Eighty-ninth division to cross the Meuse river in the face of a withering shell fire from the Germans, and who was gassed three days before the signing of the armistice, says the funniest thing he ever saw was in Flanders.

"We were on the Kailly road," asserted Lieutenant Cavanaugh, "and there was an old French peasant woman trundling along a baby carriage with an empty chair in it. The Huns were shelling the road, the shells dropping every few seconds. As each succeeding shell dropped within 100 feet of the old woman she would stop and turn around, shaking her fists at the German artillerymen miles away. Finally a shell came along, bursting about fifty feet from her. She was left standing, but the baby carriage and the chair were blown into nothing. Her hand still grasped the handle of the carriage. Shrieking her rage and despair, she hurled the handle in the direction of the unseen Germans, knelt down in the road, made the sign of the cross and then arose and trudged on, with never a backward glance."

HERE IS CURE FOR INSOMNIA

English Woman Writer Tells How She Successfully Overcame the Demon of Sleeplessness.

A woman writer in a London newspaper says she has found a cure for sleeplessness. She calls it "Ayzed" because it has to do with the letters of the alphabet. The title may puzzle Americans that are not aware that "ay" is the sound a Cockney gives to the first letter of the alphabet, and that "zed" is how the English pronounce "z." Here is the scheme:

"Tonight, say, you are wakeful. Review your friends; how many men or women you have known or do you know whose Christian name begins with A? I prescribe Christian names because they are more lovable, and listable, than surnames. You will find that it is like what we are told of drowning—all your life will pass before you in a vision till you sink blissfully beneath the waves of sleep before one letter is disposed of."

GAME PROTECTION.

In New Jersey waterfowl may not now be taken with a rifle in the forest preserve counties or on Long Island. New Jersey has made it unlawful to hunt from an automobile, or by the aid of lights carried thereon. An act of the Virginia legislature imposes on game wardens the duty of killing dogs found destroying sheep. Rhode Island has made a distinct advance in game protection by prescribing for the first time a bag limit of not more than 15 game birds in possession.

THE VALUE OF POETRY.

According to Alfred Noyes, the war has caused a dreadful slump in poetry. Everything else has gone up 300 to 400 per cent, but a sonnet that before the war would easily bring £5 (\$24.80) commands a guinea (\$5.10) today. Mr. Noyes laughed dolefully. "We ought," he said, "to revise the old proverb so as to make it read, 'Poets are born, not paid.'"—London Opinion.

THE IMPORTANT THING.

When my brother was sailing to France, a Chinese cook, who was quite a joker, said to the American soldiers: "Engla's soldier, he stay up all night and look and look for subs, and sometimes he cry, but American soldier, he don't give a damn, he say, 'Glangway, glangway, when do we eat?'"—Chicago Tribune.

MADE IN VAIN.

"Nothing is made in vain," exclaimed the altruist. "Mebbe so," rejoined Uncle Bill Bottletop. "But I'm sorry for anybody that has been puttin' up a distillery."

DIPLOMATICALLY STATED.

Charlie—You have seen Brown's girl. What is she like? Would you call her pretty? Jack—I might if I were talking to Brown!—Stray Stories.

RETURN TO THE PRIMITIVE

Peasants in Northern Russia Are Compelled to Burn Birch Twigs in Place of Candles.

The shortage in kerosene and candles in northern Russia has brought into use once more a primitive lighting arrangement known as the "svetilas," an arrangement to burn birch twigs, writes a soldier with the American forces on the Dwina. The "svetilas" have been resurrected from some ancient storeroom in the log houses of the villages and are now lighting many of them. The arrangement consists of a wooden trough about two feet long, with an iron pan to catch the ashes from the burning birch twigs, which are placed in a forklike arrangement so they slant downward and burn easily.

Each twig, or "lutchinka," burns about five minutes, with about as much light as a candle and much more smoke. The members of the family take turns feeding it. The peasant women are again generally employing the "preelka," a primitive wooden loom on which they card and weave flax for their garments. The result is cloth, both of coarse and fine varieties, and not at all bad looking.

NERVE



Jess—I only promised to be a sister to you, yet you want to kiss me all the time. Tom—Well, you'll find me a very affectionate brother.

RUST-PROOF STEEL

Quite accidentally, Harry Brearley, a Sheffield (England) metallurgist, has discovered a method for making a rust-proof steel. It will not stain or corrode. He came upon the discovery when seeking a way to prevent erosion in gun bores so that the war is responsible for this advancement. It has long been claimed by makers of a certain kind of wire for concrete reinforcement that "pure iron" would not rust. Soon we may be treated to pens that will not corrode and penknives that may be left out in the rain. The new iron may also be substituted in many places for aluminum on airplanes. Be prepared also for patented iron pills that will prevent the rust of old age.

NOT BY THE HOUR.

"Do you understand the new telephone rates?" "No. Can you explain them?" "I think so. Of course you know we are to have metered service." "Yes, I saw that in the paper." "That means we will be charged for every call." "Each call will be a distinct charge, then?" "Yes." "I'm glad of that. I had an idea when they put a meter on the line they were going to charge us by the hour, and judging from the time it takes me to get a number now that would bankrupt me."

CREATING PREJUDICE.

"You know people who take no alcohol usually eat a great deal of candy." "What I'd thought of that when I was in the legislature," sighed Uncle Bill Bottletop. "I'd have got up and blamed prohibition on the sugar trust."

CLOSED SEASON FOR DUCKS.

The closed season has been extended on wood duck in New Jersey to October 1, 1921; indefinitely on swans, wood duck and eider ducks in Ontario and Nova Scotia; and on eider ducks in Quebec.

SYMPATHETIC.

Tommy (at concert)—What's that man got his eyes shut for while he's singing? Friend—Because he can't bear to see us suffer.

ORIGIN OF DOOR-KNOCKERS

Ample Proof That They Antedated Western Civilization by Many Hundreds of Years.

The origin of door-knockers is almost lost in obscurity, and their development from mere articles of utility to objects of art has been a long slow process of evolution, covering centuries and antedating western civilization by many hundreds of years. The first general use of knockers that is positively known was among the ancient Greeks, who probably adopted them from the Egyptians. We are told that the Greeks considered it a breach of good manners to enter a house without warning the inmates, and that the Spartans gave this notice by shouting their arrival, while the Athenians announced themselves by using the knocker. Its introduction doubtless came at the time when doors superseded hangings, for the purpose of insuring greater safety or privacy. In the Greek houses of the better class a porter was in constant attendance at the door to admit visitors. Slaves were usually employed in this capacity, and were chained to the doorposts to prevent their wandering and shirking the monotony of the duty, and in order to awaken them a short bar of iron was fastened to the door by a chain, to be used as a rapper by those desiring entrance to the house. It is said that this strictly utilitarian rapper, as it was first called, was often wrenched from the door to be used as a weapon of offense by visitors who were not friendly disposed toward the household. A later development was a direct consequence of this purpose, the next type being in the form of a heavy ring fastened by a strong clamp or plate to the door, thus serving the double purpose of knocker and handle.

From Greece the custom was transferred to the Romans, and with the western trend of early civilization to nearly every country of Europe. The introduction of knockers to England, where together with Italy and Germany they have attained the greatest artistic development, was no doubt due to the Roman conquest of western Europe and Britain.—Architecture.

VIOLIN ALWAYS THE SAME

For Centuries Shape and Substance of That Tuneful Instrument Have Not Been Altered.

Even in this age of haste and change, some few of the old standards remain unchanged, but at that the rather startling realization that the violin, probably the best-loved of all musical instruments, has remained virtually unchanged in shape or substance for three centuries. In that time the harpsichord, lute and spinet have passed away, the harp has been improved, the piano has been invented and developed, but the violin, which took a hundred years to assume its present form, since the days of the great Stradivari, the world's most famous violin maker, has remained unchanged. The violin is popularly supposed to date from the days of the ancient Egyptians, but the present instrument had its beginning back in the days of the troubadours, who used musical boxes called viols or gaital fiddles. And as the years went by the little viols were improved. The shape was altered; bit by bit the instrument changed. Now a bridge was added; now a waist opening or either side of the bridge were added.

And from 1500 to 1700 the violin industry rose to its greatest achievements in the developments of Amati, Guarneri, and Stradivari, Italian violin makers living in the town of Cremona. Since their time there has been no change, and the finest and most precious musical instrument of today is a Stradivarian violin, made three centuries ago by the master craftsman, Stradivari-in-Cremona.

Poetry and Plagiarism.

After Longfellow's poem "The Village Blacksmith" first appeared it was copied all over the country in the various journals, and was not long in reaching England, where it met with the same extraordinary reception. Longfellow, in his diary of September 1, 1831, notes: "I received from Mr. Henry Curnell today a Hebrew translation of 'The Village Blacksmith.'"

In the writing of "Encounter," Longfellow was charged by a number of critics with plagiarism. One of these claimed that the poet had adopted lines from Brainerd's poem, "The Missing Bird," but to this the poet replied: "Now, when in 'Encounter' I said 'A voice fell like a falling bear' Brainerd's poem was not in my mind and I never read it. Of a truth, I cannot strike a single note from the poet's poem without disturbing the bones of some dead poet."—Detroit Free Press.

Had a Wise Use.

Unlike the discarded and the rest of the world, the aged are to be widely used, according to a recent medical writer, for useful as well as for ornamental receptacles. Drinking cups cut from the great apostles of these receptacles it was claimed that they possessed the magic quality of turning water bottled into them into a pleasing drink with an exhilarating kick, perhaps a mistletoe, that would doubtless, if they could be found, be of precious value in the land. The Free and the Home of the aged, instead of being a waste of space, would be a boon to the world every month in the year.