

Uncommon Sense

By JOHN BLAKE

WOLF AT THE DOOR

THIS isn't a fable. The wolf that figures in it is a wolf you've often heard of. He's the widely celebrated wolf at the door.

Most men work all their lives to be rid of him. When he is gone they stop working—and, too often, back he comes. Only a few get rid of him forever. And the sense of security that takes his place is considerably more dangerous than the wolf could possibly be.

Most of us need the wolf in our business. When, of a morning, we glance out of the window and see him sitting hungrily on the doorstep we take more interest in our day's work. When we are on the job the thought of him keeps us hustling. And by keeping him hunting we put our brain in condition, which helps a lot with the next day's work.

The wolfless man is a worryless man, and a worryless man isn't much use in the world.

The man who knows he can't be fired helps very little around an office or shop. Necessity did not limit her firmly to the one child—invention, she is the mother of effort, of achievement, of energy, of industry—a very goodly brood of children.

If Thomas A. Edison had made a competence before he was thirty it is probable that he would have kept on working, but we doubt it.

It is true that men long past all fear of the wolf are still doing important things, but they got the habit of work when the wolf was tearing at them—as they left the house for the job, the habit persisted.

Fortuity is an ugly thing which we all should avoid. But the very avoidance of it stimulates ambition, brings out such talents as we may have and opens our eyes to our own possibilities.

In the South Sea Islands the natives don't have to work. The breadfruit supplies their food and kills their ambition.

Water, which we associate with our mind, the wolf, forces men to step lightly on the road to competence. And the highest achievement is to be found in the temperate zones, where there is water enough to keep men thinking about the coal supply and not enough, as in the Arctic regions, to keep them from the booze all the time.

Don't be afraid of the wolf. He is not to look upon with his red eyes, and his rolling tongue, but he is one of the best friends you have got.

(By John Blake.)

Curious Changes in Eyes of Fish.
A study of the different forms and habits of fishes will bring most interesting things to light. An instance of the most peculiar things about founders is that the young of the species swim upright as in the case of any ordinary fish, one being situated on each side of the head. Gradually, however, a change comes in the appearance of the young founder. As it grows one of the eyes travels around the side of the head until both are on the same side. Subsequently this side becomes the upper side of the head. Most of this rotation of the eye is a rapid process, taking not more than three days.

STORY OF LIGHTNING ROD

King George III Was Opposed to Franklin's Device and Ordered Points Made Blunt

France has probably done more than any other nation to make the world safe against lightning. This is the century year of a revised set of rules printed by the Academie des Sciences for the protection of buildings by conductors. The glory of discovery, however, must be shared by other nations. Benjamin Franklin begins the story. "In 1745," he wrote, "I met at Boston a certain Doctor Spence, who came from Scotland. He performed some electrical experiments before me. Then a little later, while in Philadelphia, the great American received from Mr. Collinson of London, a member of the Royal Society, his first toy glass tube. I seized eagerly on the chance of reproducing what I had seen done in Boston."

From these experiments to the famous kite was an easy step, and from the kite to the lightning conductor the magic leap. Of course, the lightning conductor had a hard struggle for recognition. It was received churlishly by George III, who took his revenge on Franklin by ordering the substitution of blunt rods for pointed ones on the Royal palace conductors.

Sir John Pringle, president of the Royal Society, was invited by the king to back him up. Sir John replied that the "laws of nature are not changeable at royal pleasure." The offended king suggested resignation, and resign Sir John did. But the wits were on the side of the president: While you, great George, for safety hunt And sharp conductors change for blunt, The nation's out of joint, Franklin a wiser course purposed And all your thunder fearless views By keeping to the point. —London Chronicle.

NO PLACE TO REST ON LINER

Modern Ocean Vessels Offer No Haven for "Tired Business Man"—Equipped With Radio and Newspapers

Some persons take ocean voyages for rest. They can no longer. On many of the Atlantic liners branch banks have been or are being opened. On not a few steamships small newspapers or apologetic for newspapers have been printed. Now larger and more pretentious sheets are to be issued. A linotype machine has been installed on one liner. Other machines soon will be in operation on two other liners. Between editors, printers and reporters one well-known liner's newspaper force comprises six men. There is no escape from the radio even in mid-Atlantic. Or the phonograph. Or the ship's band. Or stock market, cotton market, money market or crop reports. Or baseball scores, prize fights, gossip or results, political rumors, reputation wrangling, crime news or war rumormonging.

The calm of the sea isn't what it used to be.—Purba Magazine.

Tell Time by Cat's Eyes.

The Chinese peasant, who has neither watch, clock nor sundial, tells the time from the eyes of a cat. The degree of dilation of a cat's eye varies through the day, contracting and expanding as the light grows strong or dim. The Chinese peasant has merely to note the size of the pupil in order to know at once the hour of the day. This method, which has not a little originality, must, however, be somewhat inconvenient if the feline timepiece should happen to be off somewhere on business of its own.—La Petit Parkinson.

1 CENT CHECK CAUSES NO END OF TROUBLE

Payment by the United States to Cheyenne National Bank Is Finally Returned.

Major W. P. Simpson of the United States Quartermaster corps, who is now employed in the offices of the World War Veterans' State Aid Commission at Salem, Ore., displayed a check for one cent, which, according to his statements, has caused correspondence aggregating many dollars.

In 1918, during the World War, Major Simpson deposited in the Stock Growers' National bank at Cheyenne, government funds amounting to \$11,985.95. Many months later Major Simpson received a letter from the bank that the account was one cent short, based on Major Simpson's checks, and that a remittance would be appreciated.

Investigation by Major Simpson showed that the books of the United States Treasury department coincided with the claim of the bank, and much correspondence followed. Finally, after hundreds of letters had been exchanged between Major Simpson, the Treasury department and the Cheyenne bank, the former sent a check to the depository for 1 cent.

Before this transaction was completed, however, the bank apparently balanced the account by appropriating the 1 cent from its funds, and the incident was closed. As a result the Cheyenne bank returned Major Simpson's check, which he now proposes to have framed as a relic of the World War.

The check was the smallest ever issued by the quartermaster department, in which Major Simpson was actively employed during the World conflict.

THE BEY OF TUNIS WHO RECENTLY VISITED PARIS

His Majesty, the Bey of Tunis, who recently made an official visit to France, wearing his full regalia displaying the dignity of his office, which includes decorations from every European country.



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TO PRINT JAPAN'S MONEY

U. S. to Help Tokyo Until New Plant Can Be Erected.

At a meeting of the cabinet in Washington recently President Coolidge was told that the Japanese government had applied to the United States for assistance in printing paper money. Behind the application was the fact that the Japanese government printing establishment, corresponding to the bureau of printing and engraving in Washington, had been destroyed in the recent devastating earthquake and fire.

The United States government will offer its own paper currency printing plant for use by Japan during the emergency and will put Japanese representatives in touch with American establishments capable of furnishing the presses and other material necessary to enable reconstruction of the destroyed Japanese plant.

One of the features of the offer to be made by this government will enable Japan to take over hand presses previously used in printing our currency in the bureau of engraving and printing, but abandoned with the installation of steam presses.

Kindness Brings Reward of \$75,000.
Because he was kind to an aged man, whom others ignored, Elmer Rader, of Meriden, Conn., is worth \$75,000 at eighteen. He was the sole heir of Robert W. Hallam, a widower who lived alone not far from the boy's home.

Woman Makes Long Drive.
Accompanied only by her three young children, Mrs. Thomas D. Schall, wife of the blind congressman, recently drove her own car from Washington, D. C., to her home in Minnesota.

Airedale Has Litter of 14.
A record-sized litter of pups was born in San Francisco to a blooded airedale when she gave birth to nine sons and five daughters. The owners now face a problem of naming the numerous progeny.

Will Introduce Boxing School.
Pupils will be instructed in scientific boxing at Buckingham junior high school, at Springfield, Mass., by a college student.

GET IODINE IN SEA FOOD

Increased Consumption of Fish Will Lessen the Thyroid Disease, Doctors Claim.

According to a fisheries service bulletin of the Department of Agriculture, it has long been known that the proper functioning of the thyroid gland in man and animals is conditioned upon the presence of an adequate amount of iodine and that the lack of iodine is associated with disorders such as goiter, cretinism, etc. Iodine usually is administered in some form as a preventive or treatment for thyroid enlargements, but as a general preventive of such troubles in a whole population it is recognized that some more generally applicable means must be found. Physiologists and physicians recently have called attention to the probability that sea foods might constitute an agreeable and convenient source of iodine for the public at large. If so, it would be necessary only to encourage the consumption of sea foods to prevent the thyroid troubles referred to.

In order to supply exact information on this subject an investigation of the iodine content of sea foods has been undertaken in the fishery products laboratory of the bureau of fisheries. The iodine in oysters, clams, lobsters, etc., several important species of food fishes from salt water and fresh water, and those that pass part of their lives in salt water and part in fresh is being determined quantitatively. Dr. Donald K. Tressler is conducting the investigation, which is expected to continue for two or three months. At present the only precise information available on the subject deals with species of fish found in Europe.

LEGEND OF GOLD IN RHINE

Lorelei, Its Guardian, Dragged Down the Mizers of Old to Their Doom.

According to the story, at the bottom of the Rhine was the vast Rhinegold, a treasure of incalculable richness. It glinted beneath the waters and the Lorelei were its guardians. Those crabbled masculine souls who prized the beauty of gold above the beauty of charming women, who preferred gold in metal to the golden skins and golden hair of the Lorelei, were dragged down to their fate.

The hair of the Lorelei was said to be spun of impossible fine strands of the golden store and the gold of their lovely cheeks was supposed to be a powder made of the mass of gold at the bottom of the stream, beaten by pebbles.

But this gold the miserly did not see, and their punishment was to see the treasure below them on the clear bottom of the river and becoming crazed with the sight of it, to try to dip their hands in it and fall in, lamented by nobody.—Detroit News.

Over the Fence Is Out.

A Scottish farmer was noted for his strength and skill. A young peer, a great pugilistic amateur, had come from London to fight the athletic Scot. The latter was working in an inclosure a little distance from the house when the amateur arrived. His lordship tied his horse to a tree and addressed the farmer thus: "Friend, I have heard a great deal about you and I have come a long way to see which of us is the better wrestler."

The Scotchman, without answering, seized the young man by the middle of his body, pitched him over the fence and returned to his work. When his lordship recovered his breath he stood silent.

"Well," said the farmer, "have you anything more to say to me?" "No," was the reply, "but perhaps you'll be so good as to throw me my horse!"—Edinburgh Scotsman.

Some Block System.

A man traveling in a train that had made several abrupt stops and sudden jerks, became a bit anxious. There had been numerous accidents on the line of late, so he had been told, and there was cause for fear. Calling the porter aside, he said: "George, is this train safe?" "Safe as any, sub."

"Is there a block system on the road?" George's grin extended from ear to ear.

"Block system, sub? Why, boss, we has de greatest block system in de world. Ten miles back we was blocked by a load of hay, six miles back we was blocked by a cow, and I reckon when we gets farther south we'll be blocked by an alligator. Block system, sub? Well, I'll say it is!"—Country Gentleman.

That Was Different.

O'Halloran rushed up to a cottage, shouting: "Lend me a spade! Lend me a spade!" "What for?" asked the owner of the cabin.

"To dig my friend out of the bog," replied O'Halloran. "He's just fallen in and he's up to his ankles!" "Up to his ankles?" replied the other. "Then you don't need a spade, I'll lend you a rope."

BLACKBIRDS FEAST ON FISH

Make Raid on Trout Fishery Established on an Estate in Scotland.

Those who study nature find that age-long traits and habits are being in some cases modified and in others entirely changed.

The writer knows of a case where a bird has its habits changed by altered conditions.

A trout fishery was established on an estate in Scotland. During certain seasons a large number of the fry of young trout are crowded together in shallow ponds as their inclination is to keep together just where the water enters.

One day a blackbird, drinking at one of these ponds, got hold of a young trout, probably accidentally, but found it was excellent feeding. A blackbird does not by habit get its food from the water, but this particular one, having tapped a new source of food supply returned to it again and again.

The following season this bird had by some means been able to impart its newly-found knowledge to all the other blackbirds on the estate, and instead of one bird stealing the young fish, all the birds got into the way of doing so! The owner had either to shoot the blackbirds or give up trying to rear trout.

That an entire change of food is not detrimental may be proved by the fact that many of the cows kept in Norway are fed on fish, yet who will say that a cow's teeth were made for dealing with a diet of this sort?—London Tit Bits.

EVIL EFFECTS OF HASHISH

Acts on Nervous System in Various Ways, Which Differ According to the Individual.

The Arabs call a man who indulges in the drug hashish a "hashash," the plural of which is "hashashheen." A band of Muslim fanatics who flourished in the Eleventh and Twelfth centuries and devoted themselves to murdering secretly the enemies of the prophet used to fortify themselves with hashish for their desperate deeds. They came to be known as "hashashheen"—hence the English word "hashish."

Hashish acts on the nervous system in various ways, which differ according to the individual and the strength of the dose. A small dose produces gaiety, a larger one hallucinations, delirium and sometimes cataplexy. An average dose induces a dreamy state, when the indulger becomes the sport of rapidly shifting ideas. The habitual "hashash" can rarely collect his thoughts, his memory goes and he is prone to curious errors of perception.

Herodotus records that the Scythians burned the seeds of hemp during the purification ceremonies that took place after a death and that they became intoxicated by the fumes.—Detroit News.

Rhode Island School Leader.

The first public school in New England, believed to be the first in the United States, was launched at Newport, R. I., 223 years ago, when the men of Rhode Island voted to support such an institution to be conducted by the Rev. Robert Lenthall, a Church of England clergyman.

In the colonial days in America little thought was given to the education of the children of the "common" people, and among the well-to-do the opinion generally prevailed that such people were better off without any education.

The Rhode Islanders did not share this view, however, and when Roy, Mr. Lenthall proposed to "keep a public school for the learning of youth" he found ready support for his project. He was granted 100 acres of land to be laid forth and appropriated for a school, for encouragement of the poorer sort, to train up their youth in learning.—Capper's Weekly.

When Tin Catches Cold.

You would scarcely suspect a metal such as tin of being able to catch cold, but it can do so for all that. In countries like northern Russia all sorts of utensils are likely to become useless in winter time. A tiny grayish spot makes its appearance on the surface of the tin; it grows in size, and then others appear. In time the metal crumbles into a dark-colored powder.

Some years ago a whole shipment of blocks of tin, stored in the customs house in Petrograd during the winter, was found the following spring to have crumbled to dust.

What really happens is that the cold causes tin to change from one of its forms to another. Tin is often found in mines in the gray powder form which is quite useless. When it is heated it turns into the well-known shiny metal, but under the influence of extreme cold it may return to its other form.

Reverse Action.

Little Esther was hardly more than a baby, but she objected when her bedtime came around, as children will. Finally, father offered to lie down on the bed until she was asleep, and for a while everything was quiet.

The minutes passed—ten, fifteen, twenty, and mother, sitting in the parlor, wondered why father didn't return. She continued her sewing, however, and presently the silence was broken by the pit-a-pat of naked feet. Next moment Esther appeared in the doorway, her tiny fingers raised for silence.

"Sh-sh, mummy, I've just got daddy off to sleep at last."—Boston Transcript.

BAKE AND CHILL WATCHES

Tests for Timepieces Made in Ovens and Refrigerators by the Manufacturers.

After the many small parts of a watch have been assembled and fitted into the case, a number of tests have to be made before the watch is ready to pass into the possession of a new owner.

One of the most necessary things to look out for is the action which changes of temperature have upon the works. Extremes of heat and cold affect the running of a watch considerably. You may, perhaps, have noticed with your own watch that it cannot be relied upon to keep accurate time if the weather makes a sudden jump from heat to cold, or vice versa.

It will either gain or lose, and you will wonder what is happening to it. When the weather becomes normal again, the watch will behave properly. Expensive watches are adjusted for temperatures varying between 35 degrees and 95 degrees.

Each watch is put in a tightly-fitting case, and placed in a chamber the temperature of which is slightly above freezing point. Its movement is observed very carefully, and adjusted from time to time, until the watch is going correctly.

The timekeeper is then moved from the cold chamber, and gradually heated in a specially constructed oven, the temperature of which is between 90 and 100 degrees. Here its internal arrangements are still carefully watched and adjusted from time to time. When the watch is going correctly in this temperature, it is returned to the cold chamber for further adjustment, if necessary. It spends about a week in each chamber.

By the time a watch has passed the temperature tests, it will go correctly in any climate. Chronometers ordered specially by explorers and travelers who are going to places where great extremes of temperature are encountered undergo very searching tests to make them thoroughly reliable.—London Tit Bits.

PAPYRUS GROWS IN ITALY

Plants Are Grown Stems Like Reeds or Bamboo and Have Spray of Flowers at the Top.

Syracuse, in Sicily, is the one place in the world where papyrus still grows wild. Even in Egypt, home of its origin, it is extinct. And the origin of that papyrus is a charming episode in history, writes Henry James Forman.

Hiero, king of Syracuse, at about the time Theocritus was at his court composing the Idylls, built and fitted out a marvelous ship equipped with gardens, stalls for horses, and stairways and columns of Teotimian marble—a ship of 4,200 tons in those days. Archimedes doubtless helped to build it—a present to Ptolemy of Egypt.

As a part of the acknowledgment of the gift from Alexandria came the papyrus planted along the banks of the Anapo and there it has been growing ever since.

The papyrus plants are grown—stommed like reeds or bamboo, the thickness of a man's wrist, with a circular spray of flowers at the top, unique among plants.—Harper's Magazine.

Spirit Renamed at Death.

During the life of a person in Luzon his spirit is called Tako. After the death it receives a new name. It is believed to go about in a body invisible to the eye of man, yet unchanged in appearance from the living person. If a man becomes unconscious, the natives think a vengeful spirit has lurked away the soul of the sick man and they hold the ceremony of "Calling Back the Soul." Then they hold a big feast to which they invite all the spirits in order to induce them to bring back the sick man's soul.

A pronged spear is supposed to protect the people from the ever vengeful, Anito, or evil spirits, who are always waiting to trip one up on the trail, to cause him to fall and hurt himself or to kill him.—Detroit News.

Six Stock Salesmen to Avoid.

The Northwestern Banker (Des Moines) puts a deal of good advice into small compass when it tells its readers that the six stock salesmen for the investor to avoid are: The man who tells you how stockholders in similar concerns became rich over night.

The man who wants to help you in "keeping the contract away from Wall Street."

The man who talks about the "transferability" of stock.

The man who says that the stock will later be "listed on the exchange."

The man whose chief selling points are letters of recommendation from "leading citizens."

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