The Quiet Observer

SERVICE AT COST OR PROFIT.

As a Royal Commission on Hydro Radials cogitates on the evidence it has received it will find one strong point in favor of the principle of service at cost behind the calculations of the Hydro Radial Union. All the allegations that radials do not pay have to be considered in the light of the fact that their profits are abolished by holding companies which charge them high rates for power and other highly taxed services. It was brought out, for example, in one enquiring that the Hamilton radials were charged $15 to $19 per horse power, though it is estimated that the power does not cost more than $6. The Radial Company and the Power Company are but the right and left hands of the same authority, but the left hand is weak and the right is strong, and so the public must be charged more and more for the left hand service. The proposal of the Hydro Commission of Ontario is not to have a right and left hand method of gammoning the public, but to recognize that the service given is one service by one authority from the generation of power to the transportation of the passenger, and that this sevice is to be given at cost. When the extra profits are subtracted from the cost of service it will be seen that the lower estimates of the Hydro Commissios are eminently justifiable and practical.

UNRIVALLED ADVERTISING.

If Ambrose Small and John Doughty had arranged to pull off one of the biggest advertising stunts that ever was put over on a long-suffering public they would have accomplished their object, and there is no law that they have broken and no faith violated. A man has a perfect right to disappear if he wants to, and there does not appear to be any crime in assuming an alias as long as there is no crime to be concealed? Royalties grequently travel incognito, and commoners have the same privilege. John Doughty did not even disguise himself, though he might have cut his hair or grown a moustache and beard or whiskers. To receive a million dollar cheque and then disappear; to take $100,000 worth of bonds and transfer them to another depository; to provide for the disappearance for a year of a confidential clerk, and by these means attract the attention of the whole civilized world, might be regarded as an advertising device of the first order, and certain to ensure publicity for any project associated with its deviser. No objection could be taken to a man keeping his bonds anywhere he pleased, and there is nothing criminal in lying perdu in itself. If a government chooses to pass acts of parliament to meet conditions arising out of such action, it alone is responsible. If the press is filled with speculations and rumors about the matter there is no contract to be satisfied in connection with it. Fiction writers have made capital out of the affair and given their own interpretation, and as an advertising scheme nothing bigger was ever arranged. But the powers that be could never accept such a pleasant view of the situation.

ADMIRALS ALL.

Admiral O'Callaghan's death raises all the questions anew that have been stirring the nautical world since the battle of Jutland. He was superseded at the outbreak of the war, and many thought that he should have been the admiral to face Von Tirpitz and his fleets. Admiral Jellicoe was given the honor and the controversy over his conduct of the action at Jutland promises to last for the rest of the century. The official account has been delayed publication more than once, and the last occasion was due, it was stated to the reception of further information from German sources. There is no question but that it is the desire of the British Admiralty to present an account of the battle which will be as accurate, as complete and as fair as human faculty can make it. Several narratives have already been published including Admiral Jellicoe's. Whatever may be thought of the technical side of the fighting there is not the slightest doubt that the practical result was decisive. The Germans never dreamed of facing the enemy in force again. It is not difficult to believe that they had no intention of facing the British fleet when Beattie overhauled them.

NATIONS STILL GO ARMED.

In the decision to postpone disarmament until conditions are more settled the League of Nations admits its practical inefficacy to bring about the conditions which are indespensable to disarmament. It is the old story over again. Let Messieurs the Assassins begin. It is the nature of the assassins not to begin, and so we return to the victim, the Archbishop of York, Dr. Magee in 1874, there Bishop of Peterborough, that with the observance of the Golden Rule the empire would collapse in six months. The use of poison gas by the Bolshevists in the Crimea by which Wrangel's forces were overwhelmed, indicates the necessity of using poison gas in retaliation if war is to be carried on. If one does not fight the devil with fire the devil will triumph. The British Government is carrying on the investigation and testing of poison gas for military purposes, and the United States Government has announced that every soldier in the U. S. army when he goes into action will carry poison gas bombs in his pockets. It is a pity that a painless, but equally efficacious gas is not devised which would render unconscious for some hours the opposing forces. A lethal discharge of painless gas would not be necessary if the same effect could be obtained without causing pain or death. Unfortunately victory in war appears to depend on the ability of one force to kill and slay or permanently disable the other. It should not be outside the resources of chemistry to produce a gas which would quietly overwhelm an army of any magnitude for a number of hours. When they awaken from their temporary stupor the soldiers would find themselves disarmed, helpless, in the power of their foes, who, if of the British type would be good-natured and benevolent and able to convince them that they had been fighting on the wrong side. This would be war as our Sunday schools would like to see it carried on. But war in reality with Prussians, with Bolshevists, with greed and hate and ambition and all the other military vices is of another stamp and the League of Nations finds itself compelled to go armed among enemies. The world is not yet ruled by reason, much less love.

AFTER THE SNOW FLIES.

Heavy snow caught a lot of farmers with unturned furrows and little more is likely to be done with the plow unless the winter is more than usually mild. Attention is being directed to stock, which is below average in number, with a good demand which has led to the purchase of steers for winter feeding. The slump in bacon has not been unexpected considering the ample supply of forage, but there is little likelihood of this profitable end of the farm yard being neglected. Bacon is always good. Horses are in demand for lumber camps at around $200. Roots were not all harvested and a good deal of the crops will remain in the ground till spring. Orchards caught in the cold snap will yield no more profit and the wastage this year has been enormous in spite of heavy shipments. Clinton shipped 20,000 barrels of Spies from one agent. Labor seems to be adequate now that the harvest rush is over.

COUNTRY CURED HAM AND BACON

HOME PRODUCTION OF SMOKED MEATS IS A GOOD WAY TO BEAT THE PACKER AT HIS OWN GAME.

By. W. J. P

Whoever you are and wherever you are, when you read the above heading you can almost smell ham and bacon cooking on the kitchen stove now. If you are on the farm, no doubt you are wondering why you did not butcher one or more hogs last year so that you could have had enough cured meat to last until the next fall.

There are two good reasons why we are all so anxious to have country cured pork products. The main reason is that it has a reputation for being delicious and palatable. It is usually sweet and tender. Country sausage cakes seem different than the ordinary sausage we buy in casings. Country sausage has a flavor all its own; add to buckwheat cakes and maple syrup, it has a drawing power few are able to resist.

The Sugar Cure Method.

After hams, shoulders and bacon are properly trimmed, they should be weighed. Then rub them with salt and place the hams in the bottom of a water-tight barrel. After the hams follow the shoulders and the bacon and last the jowls on top. The meat should be neatly packed in the barrel, with the skin side down on all pieces except the top layer.

The brine should be mixed some time before it is to be used, so that it will have plenty of time to cool. Never pour hot brine over the meat. For each 100 pound of meat to be cured, mix the following: 10 pounds of salt, 2 pounds of sugar, 2 ounces of salt peter, 5 gallons of water.

The mixture preferably should be dissolved in hot water and then allowed to cool. Pour it over the meat and be sure that all the meat is covered. If there is not enough brine, add a little water. Weigh the meat down with a board and a clean stone, but never use iron or anything that would taint the meat. Fresh meat will absorb odors quickly.

Allow the pork to remain in the brine about four days for each pound of meat in the shoulder or ham. A 12-pound ham will take about seven weeks to cure by the sugar method. An average of from six to seven weeks will be about right for most pieces

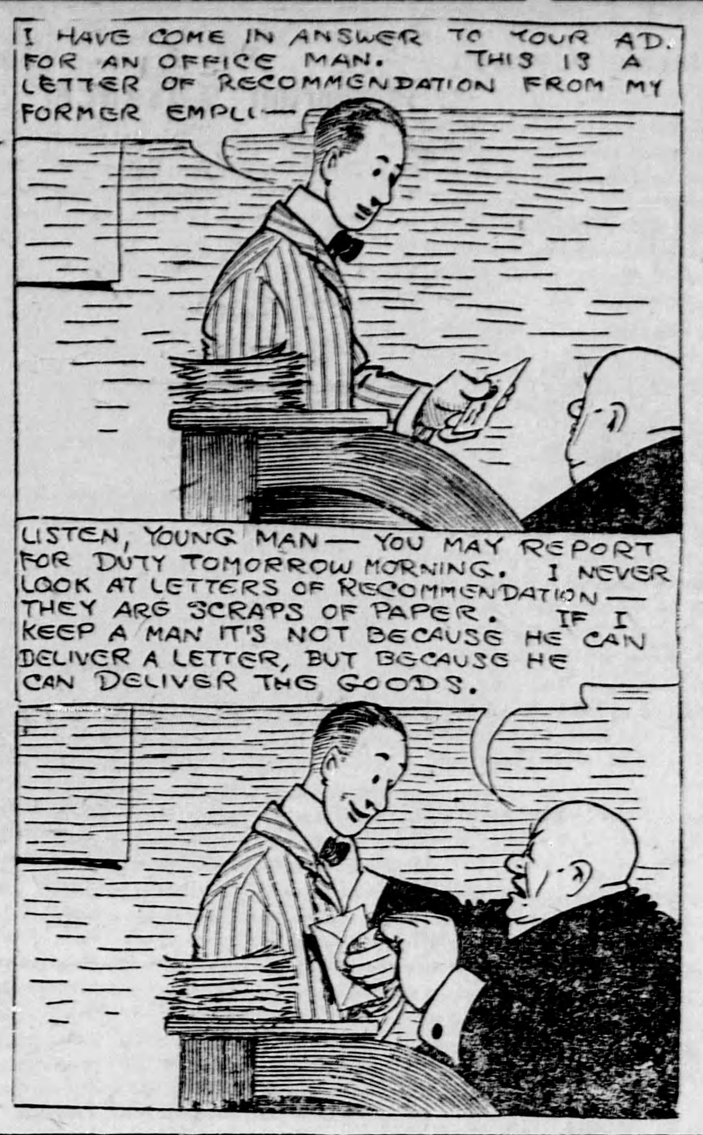
The brine should be examined from time to time, and if it shows a tendency to sour, remove it. Wash off the meat. At the end of the cure wash the meat and string it for hanging in the smoke house.

Smoking the Meat.

The meat should be hung in the smoke house so that no two pieces of meat touch. Smoke the meat with a slow fire of hardwood, such as hickory, until the meat takes on a smoky or dark straw color. This will ordinarily take from three to four days. The smoke should be kept on steadily, so that flies will not be able to lay eggs in the crevices of the meat, which, when hatched out, would spoil the meat.

If you have missed the good smoked hams and bacon that you might have had, and that would not only have furnished many a splendid meal, but would also have cut down the farm's big meat bill, why not make up your mind to have them for next year, and plan the smoke house now? There will be time to build it—it is only a small job.

Brick is an excellent material to use in the construction. It is fireproof and will insure a sightly building that you will not be ashamed to have placed conveniently near the house. It will also help to make the smoke house fly-proof, and the importance of its being so can be fully appreciated only by those who have had fine hams ruined by maggots. Cover the smoke apertures with a heavy quality of fly screen embedded in the mortar.



FOOLISH FRANCESCA

By Olive Wadsley

He did not answer. He seemed to be utterly indifferent to her; his calmness terrified her. She was not skilled enough in the knowledge of men to be able to judge his mood. She was did not notice that the cigarette he smoked so. "Leon, why should you mind Reg just kissing me; it—it wasn't a sort of love kiss.'"

"Do you divide your kisses into classes?" he asked as he came near to her. She shrank back. "And I believe in you," he said furiously. "I was fool enough to believe I had awakened you, and then I come and find you in another man's arms—a man who you calmly tell he has been very good to you, and whom you allow to kiss you and give you jewelry.

"Don't—don't!" Frankie cried pitifully. "You are spoiling all our happiness. If you can't believe—you can't believe—" Her voice failed; she broke down.

"Believe!" Leon said bitterly. "I don't need much belief after what I've seen."

Frankie lifted her face disfigured by tears. "Do you mean," she asked very low, "that you think I've—I've, been untrue to you?"

"God knows what you've been!" Leon said violently. "What you do suppose any man would think finding you as I found you?"

Suddenly desperate courage came to her. In her heart she was renouncing her happiness—that wonderful happiness which had given her one night of heavenliness."

"I thought love meant understanding and believing in people," she said. "I'd have believed in you, whatever you had done, or I'd seen. I—I suppose times like the one we had last night can't ever come back." She put out her hands as though to clasp something and then drew them back. "You can go," she said.

Leon stared at her; then found his voice. "Tired of me already!" he sneered.

He was so angry so furiously jealous, that he hardly knew what he was saying.

Frankie answered him in his own words. "You have awakened me, as you said." She went to the door; he caught hold of her, holding her thin wrist. Her anger flamed up at last to meet his.

"I will never forgive you," she said. Their two spent faces were veary near; then, so violently that she almost fell, Leon released her, and flung past her and out of the house."

"Yes," Frankie said rather faintly; she leaned against the piano and she looked very little and thin and small. Her lips quivered sudenly, and she clenched her hands to keep herself from crying.

Savinge saw the trembling lips and something fine in him which had made him want always to protect her in life.

A very clear comprehension of Frankie's attitude of mind came to him. But the habits of spoiled youth die hard. He had been wronged; why should he give in first?

Frankie unconsciously gave a little sigh; the slight sound reminded Savinge in some way of the evening before. She had sighed like that when he had kissed her. He was, despite his furious amazement, a real lover, he went forward very swiftly and took her forcibly in his arms.

"You don't mean what you've been saying," he stammered, holding her close, carried away by her nearness; "you don't mean it. You can say what you like but in your heart you know that you belong to me.

"I love you, I tell you, I love you I want you. Frankie, darling, my little love, open your eyes; look at me.

He kissed her eyes passionately.

"It's all right," he went on. "We'll make it up and forget all we've said, both of us. You know you can't do without me reallily, and I've—"

With a sudden violent wrench Frankie had freed herself.

"I'm not the sort of lover to be taken just because you choose to take me," she cried passionately. "I meant what I said. I will never marry you now. You doubted me, and scoffed at me, and then, because you choose to want me, as you call it, you deign to forgive me and to tell me I think you will find that I can. I despise you. And I never want to see you again."

She was out of the room before Savinge could speak again.

He stood perfectely still in the centre of the room. The flush faded from his face, and a certain brutal hardness seemed to settle in his eyes.

He lounged across, caught up his hat and gloves, and left the flat.

He was met in the street by De Sourne, who had just left a big lunch.

"Hello, Leon," he said. "Felicitations, old chap; so you're got your Carmen after all, and she's deuced fascinating. Mme. Kain rang me up and told me this morning, and we've been toasting you at the Royale; the public will have the news in the five o'clock, all right. Hello, there's Windt; I must catch him; see you at the opera to-night.

He went off and Savinge was left to realize that his engagement to Frankie, which did not exist, would be public property in a half-hour, and that the news it had been broken off would, after Frankie's debut at the opera, provide an even more sensational paragraph.

He was a proud man and, in a sense, a vain one.

He was vain, at any rate, of his name, and the knowledge that it would be lampooned did not tend to soothe him. Frankie, so far as he understood love, and her resistance to him had intensified that love and at the same time enraged him.

He half decided to catch the boat train for Cherbourg, but that strain of wildness which had helped as often as it had influenced him wrongly, made him turn aside that thought.

Another took its place—a thought so reckless that, in his mood, he leaped at it!

CHAPTER XXI.

When Love Is Blind.

Most people make a supreme fool of themselves at some time or other in their lives. Most of us, fortunately, do it while we are young and our youth helps us to recover our self-respect.

Savinge was denied the comfort of extreme youth, and at thirty-five foolishness is not at a premium. He remained in a blind rage until the afternoon, when he a length, allowing honesty to prevail, he admitted to himself that of he had been a fool.

A lover has merely to reach this conclusion and hail a taxi; and the result of both these happenings is, thanks to the forgiveness which hurt love gives so instantly, a foregone conclusion.

Leon did just vary the proceeding by stopping his taxi at a florist's; he did not choose the flowers of the morning which he had flung down in a bruised heap, but took a big bunch of violets instead.

He was not going to Francesca as a suppliant; rather he went as a forgiving conqueror.

The victory had been such an easy one, after all- True, during his long journey in Tibet, after his interview with Frankie in Berlin, he had suffered the tortures of the unwanted lover. Even yesterday, when he had asked. Mme. Schubert Kain's help, he had felt wretchedly uncertain and humble, and then Frankie had come to him—and surrendered. Poor darling, he had been a brute lover!

Of course she didn't care for that insignificant English youth; only a man wildly in love and having a furious temper could for an instant have been jealous. Savinge had the grace to feel rather ashamed of himself.

He raced up the steps to Mme. Kain's apartment and hammered on the door.

Therese answered his summons leisurely. It was nearly three o'clock, and she rested always from two to three in her room, during which hour Mme. Schubert Kain would not have dreamed of disturbing her.

Usually no callers came at that hour and peace reigned throughout the flat. Therese had heard the thunderous knocks with annoyed surprise and with a muttered Diable at the call, rose creakily and prepared to go to the door.

Savinge was not in the easiest of moods, therefore, when at last the door was opened. He brushed Therese aside and went off at a long stride to the salon.

Mme. Kain also believed in a quiet rest from two to three o'clock.

She was lying in a negligee on the sofa, reading the Figaro, and at odd intervals throwing a desultory sentence to Frankie, who was curled up on the white bear hearth-rug, her head against a big scarlet tufty floor cushion.

To her own amazement a vast engulfing anger had swept over her. The pride which had made her, despite illness, poverty and loneliness, fight on by herself in the early days, had in these days of leisurely comfort remained dormant. Savinge had awakened it again that morning in a different form.

Frankie had learned a good many things in her London life; she had a quick mind, and an intelligence which pierced facts and reasons swiftly, and her various experiences as a waitress in a city tea shop had given her a certain shrewd insight into men's characters.

The overwhelming frantic happiness of youth which had been given to her by Leon the evening before had effectually prevented her from discriminating thought. No one wants to reflect seriously if they are perfectly happy, and to no one in the world can love come as such a dazzling, heavenly gift as to a girl who is all alone and who has struggled alone to wrest a living from life.

All Frankie's power of loving, and it was great, had been awakened by Leon. She had hated Leon, then loved him. Now she was caught up in a whirl of conflicting emotions.

Slowly sheer, cold anger triumphed.

To doubt her, to be brutal to her, to insult her, because of —Danvers'. It seemed grotesque and yet it hurt horribly. She had been so glad to see Danvers; he had, she knew, saved up to come, and he had been so awfully glad to have a present to give her, and she had felt so happy about it, so innocently happy and touched.

Memories of the Sunday afternoon jaunts on the tram to Hampton Court, of the rare bank holidays when Reg. had always prepared some little "bust," as he called it, came to her.

He had been good to her, and she had loved him for it. And then, when she had been ill and when really there hadn't seemed a gleam of hope about anything he had wanted to marry her.

Anyway, he had bravely said so though Frankie had divined that the wish was one of those wishes that do not always require granting to make them satisfactory.

Dear old Reg! He was a good sort and she knew so well all he had felt when he had bought the bracelet. He would have looked in every jeweler's window in the Strand and Oxford street, she knew, and he would have had traysful to choose from, even if it was only a nine-carat one. He seemed such a happy part of her life.

He had been something in the olden days, such a comfort, and they had been poor together. And yet when her chance had come, Red had been the very first to be glad and to phophecy great things.

(Cotinued next week).

The Sunday School Lesson

JESUS FEEDS THE MULTITUDES

Lesson XII. December 19.

Matt. 14: 13-23.

Golden Text.—"They have no need to go away; give ye them to eat" (Matt. 14: 16.)

Historical Setting.

Time—A. D. 29. Place— Near Bethsaida.

Daily Readings

Monday, December 13.—The Multitude Fed (Matt. 14: 13-23). Tuesday, December 14.—Compassion on the Mulititude (Matt. 15: 32-38). Wednesday, December 15.—Elisha's Meal (2 Kings 4: 38-44). Thursday, December 16.—Elijah and the Widow (1 Kings 17: 8-16). Friday, December 17—Water from the Rock (Ex. 17: 1-7). Saturday, December 18.—The Bread of Life (John 6: 24-35). Sunday, December 19. Jesus' Prayer (John 17: 17-26).

The Lesson Text.

13 Now when Jesus heard it, he withdrew from thence in a boat, to a desert place apart: and when the multitudes heard thereof, they followed him on foot from the cities.

14 And he came forth, and saw a great multitude, and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick.

15. And when even was come, the disciples came to him, saying. The place is desert, and the time is already past; send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves food.

16 But Jesus said unto them. They have no need to go away; give ye them to eat.

17 And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

18 And he said, Bring them hither to me.

19 And he commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass; and he took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples to the multitudes.

20 And they all ate, and were filled; and they took up that which remained over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.

21 And they that did eat were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

22 And straightway he constrained the disciples to enter into the boat, and to go before him unto the other side, till he should send the multitudes away.

23 And after he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into the mountain apart to pray; and when even was come, he was there alone.

Comments

Verse 13. After the twelve were sent forth, as recorded in a previous lesson, the death of John the Baptist occurred and the miracle of this lesson took place following Jesus' return to Capernaum. The feeding of the five thousand was near Bethsaida. This is the third year of our Lord's ministry. The expression, "When Jesus heard it," refers to the death of John the Baptist. This Bethsaida was on the north coast of Galilee across the Jordan. The "cities" were round the upper coast of the lake.

Verse 14. Evidentily the people were greatly excited over the things said and done by Jesus Christ. He was the idol of the hour. He had compassion on them because all of them were fatigued, some of them were sick, and many of them were starving in spirit as well as in body. No painting is able to picture the destitution of the "multitudes" in Palestine to this day.

Verse 15. Evidently the people had been so intent upon the healings wrought, and upon the charm of Jesus' teaching, that they had forgotten that there was nothing to eat. The day was passing away, and it was nearly night. Something had to be done. The disciples counseled the scattering of the multitude so that they might go to adjacent villages.

Verse 16. Painly Jesus thought that He who fed the multitude of Israel forty years in the desert was able to feed the small company gathered about him. Obedience to Christ's comand, "Give ye them to eat," seemed impossible.

Verse 17. According to John's account, Jesus addressed Philip about the food. Philip lived near Bethsaida. The apostles asked that the multitude be sent away. Jesus replied that it was not necessary. Mark says that Jesus asked how many loaves they could secure, and John tells of Andrew's finding a lad with five loaves and two fishes. It is these loaves and fishes mentioned in verse 17.

Verse 18. We never knew the sufficiency of either our means or our abilities until we place them in the hands of Christ.

Verse 19. Reclining on one elbow, it was the customary posture in eating. Our Lord set the example of returning thanks for food.

Verse 20. This is plainly a miracle described by an eye-witness.

Verse 21. There were probaly not many of the women and children. The multitude had gone a long way.

Verses 22, 23. "Unto the other side" was toward Capernaum. Jesus sought God in prayer. "There was a strongly popular desire to make Him a king." The jealousy of Herod and of the Pharisees increased the difficulty of His position. He needed His Father's help.

Illustrated Truth.

Again and again, giving has enriched, rather than impoverished, the givers (v. 16).

Illustration.—A few years ago, when tidings began to come to us concerning the starving people across the sea, conscience said, "Give ye them to eat." While our sympathies were touched, we were doubtful. We must be careful lest there be not enough for ourselves and for them. However, we needed the voice, and the whole country was stirred concerning the necessity of increased production. Barren lands were made into productive fields and gardens, and that which had been desert yielded bread. Our loaves and fishes were sought for ourselves and for them.

Topics for Research and Discussion.

I A Weary Multitude (vs. 13-15). 1. What occurred between the sending forth of the twelve and the feeding of the multitude? 2. Why did the people stay away from home so long as to become hungry? 3. What was the proposition of the disciples?

II. The Lack of Food (vs. 16-18). 4. How did Jesus solve the problem? 5. What did the disciples think of His Command? 6. Who furnished the loaves and fishes? 7. What was Jesus' purpose in the miracle?

III. The Miraculous Feast (vs. 19-23). 8. What was the Oriental posture in eating? 9. What example did Jesus set before eating? 10. Is there any excuse for critics insisting that this is not a miracle? 11. What increased the difficulty of Jesus' position?

THE INVALID IN THE HOUSE.

Meals in bed, to be partaken of with benefit, should be comfortable, and the ordinary arrangement of a more or less heavy tray resting on the invalid's knees and a slippery pile of pillows to support the back, does not provide the necessary comfort.

Two simple furnishings that will make an invalid's meal less troublesome to partake of are a bed table or invalid's tray, and a bed rest. The first is just a wooden tray with a rim around three sides, and four legs on which it stands firmly on the bed over the knees of the sick person. The second is a tent-like canvas and wood support to set in behind the person who is sitting up in bed for a meal. It provides a firm back-rest, that piled-up pillows do not give. It is an adjustable wooden frame covered with strong canvas, and made on the principle of a hammock chair.

Where the invalid is a woman it is hardly necessary to add that a pretty and comfortable dressing jacket, a thick one for winter and a cool one for summer, as well as a becoming boudoir cap add appreciably to her well-being.

A new high-speed lightweight automobile designed by an Englishman is narrow gauge, tracking only 45 inches. The car, fully equipped, weighs but 600 pounds.