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Synthetic Rubber

It takes a year's milk of two full-grown hevea trees to produce rubber enough for a single cord tire.. Since there are about 90,000,000 tires in more or less constant use in America alone, the announcement of Dr. A. von Weinberg, one of the directors of Germany's gigantic chemical trust, that the synthesis of rubber is an achieved chemical fact, will cause many to wonder wwhat will become of the hundreds of thousands of hevea trees which have been planted.

Dr. von Weinberg's optimism recalls the Eighth International Congress of Applied Chemistry fifteen years ago in New York. It was enlivened by the somewhat acrimonious rivalry of Professor W. H. Perkin, of Manchester, and Dr. Carl Duisberg, of Leverkusen. The English chemist proclaimed that he and his assistants had succeeded in producing rubber from potato starch and that they could repeat their laboratory success on a commercial scale. This the German capped by exhibiting a pair of automobile tires which had run their thousand miles and which had been made of synthetic rubber, and by predicting the appearance of synthetic rubber on the market "in a sort time."

No chemist would assert that a substance the exact chemical counterpart of caoutchouc has ever been produced. Indeed, thus to mimic nature would be futile. Just as rayon has only the desirable qualities of silk, so a synthetic rubber must have only the desirable properties of caoutchouc. What the organic chemist seeks is not "rubber," but "rubbers," each of which will serve its spec'al purpose and some of which may prove to be even more useful than the rubber of nature.

Commercial success in synthezing these rubbers is dependent on a cheap source of one of three possible raw materials which bear the formidable names butadein, isoprene and methyl isoprene. Petrolenm, potato starch, calcium carbide and some coal-tar derivatives are the more promising oases. The process of obtaining synthetic rubber from these is well understood, but not that of imparting the physical qualities which industry demands. The synthetic rubber that Germany produced during the war had but a limited usefulness. It absorbed oxygen from the air; it could not be readily vulcanized; it lacked elasticity and plasticity in the soft state, defects overcome only by the addition of expensive "elasticators." The fact that we heard so little of synthetic rubber after the war speaks for itself. Leverkusen, credited with a capacity of 2,000 tons a year, succumbed to the price of natural rubber. When the latex of the jungle and the plantation brought $20 and even $50 a pound in blocaded Germany synthetic rubber at $10 was cheap.

Germany's interest in synthetic rubber is largely due to an intense national desire for independence, so far as raw materials are concerned. With no tropical plantations of her own, with new uses for rubber being found every day, Germany has sought to repeat her dramatic success in synthesizing nitrates, dyes and drugs. But the ruin of the natural indigo industry is not likely to be duplicated There are still millions of acres that can be cultivated for rubber, and the production cost of "crude" will long remain at less than 20 cents a pound. Moreover, if the plant breeder has improved sugar beets, wheat and fruits, why may he not increase the yied of an acre of rubber from 400 to 1,000 pounds? The Germans know all this. They will have achieved another chemical triumph if they can merely compete with natural rubber.

APPLICANT FOR THE MOVIES

"Young lady have you filled out your form?"
"Say, lissen kid you'd be surprised."

"Say it with scents" is the new slogan adopted at the perfumers' convention. In following this advice, however, the perfumes in turn will expect one to say it with dollars.

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Renewing Their Youth

CITY PEOPLE LIKE "OLD HOME" DAYS

A movement that means much to Canadian schools is the revived interest of the graduates of former years. Here a group of the "old boys and girls" of Eglinton School, Toronto,are shown at a reunion.

TRIALS OF INDIGESTION

Errors About This Trouble Into Which People Fall.

Many people so far misunderstand the digestive system as to treat it like a machine; neglecting it until it works sluggishly, then irritating it into work again by the use of purgatives. The stomach needs help at all times, but a study of the process of digestion will show that purgatives, as commonly taken, are seldom necessary and often harmful.

To safeguard your digestion the diet must be controlled. Over-eating is always harmful, but one must assimilate enough food to supply the needs of the blood. Remember, the blood has to carry nourishment to all parts of the body and find fuel for its energy. Hence when the blood becomes weak and fails to do its work, indigestion arises. Therefore the sure remedy for indigestion is to build up the blood. If you suffer from any form of indigestion choose your diet carefully and take wholesome nourishment. Above all, start building up your blood by taking a course of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Then under the influence of the new blood supply, your digestive system will respond naturally, your appetite improve and your food will do you good. So begin to improve your digestion by starting to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills now.

You can get these pills from your druggist or by mail at 50 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Dickens Speech Found in London

Famous Writer Twice Chairman of London Organization at Interval of 21 Years—Printer Styled "Friend of Every Man Who Can Read"

London.—The debt of gratitude which was felt by Charles Dickens to the journeyman printer, through whose skill and industry Dickens's own works reached the world, has been strikingly and unexpectedly displayed through a newly discovered record of a speech he made in 1864. It has turned up during a search of the archives of the Printers' Pension, Almshouse, and Orphan Asylum Corporation.

Charles Dickens was twice chairman of this organization, in 1843 and 1864. It was in the preparation of material for the institution's centenary that the discovery was made. In accepting his second chairmanship after the lapse of years, Mr. Dickens said:

"I have served three apprenticeships to life since I last presided over one of the festivals of this society. It is 21 years since I first occupied this chair. How many chairs have I taken since then? I might, in truth, say a whole pantechnicon of chairs, and in having worked my way round, I feel that I have come home again.

"The printer is a faithful servant, not only for those connected with the business, but for the public at large, and has, therefore, when laboring under infirmity and distress, an especial claim on all for support. Without claiming for him the whole merit of the work produced by his skill, labor, endurance, and intelligence, without him what would be the state of the world at large? Why, tyrants and humbugs in all countries would have everything their own way.

"I am certain there are not in any branch of manual dexterity so many remarkable men as might be found in the printing trade. For quickness of perception, amount of endurance, and willingness to oblige, I have ever found the compositor pre-eminent.

"The printer is the friend of intelligence, of thought; he is the friend of liberty, of freedom, of law; indeed, the printer is the friend of every man who is the friend of order—the friend of every man who can read!"

Many do not know that among Dickens's unpublished works is a Life of Christ which he wrote for his own children It is now in the possession of his son, Sir Henry Dickens, Common Serjeant of the City of London. It was Charles Dickens's wish that it should never be published for general circulation.—Christion Science Monitor.

Keep Minard's Liniment in the house.

Consulting the Oracle

Tibetans Can Give Our "Cup-readers," Palmists and Fortune Tellers Some Hints

Are you anxious about the issue of a business transaction? Be nonchalant. Consult an oracle. If you live in Tibet, you'll find one at the nearest monastery; and although the Tibetans are becoming modernized in many ways, they still seek practical help from the angels, demons, elementals, and so on, through the mediumship of holy men who make it their business to deliver market or other tips—for a price. As a writer in the New York Times explains:

For instance, a trader wishes to find out whether a projected trading venture will be successful or not, or whether the time is auspicious for undertaking it. He betakes himself to the nearest oracle, to whom he offers presents. Of the presents are accepted, the oracle, clad in gorgeous robes of Chinese silk brocade and wearing festoons of human bones, takes his seat on a throne facing the suppliant.

While he is in this state the controlling demon is supposed to enter into his body and through his mouth answer questions. Oracles usually give vague replies, capable of more than one interpretation, but on occasion it is surprising how nearly correct they are in their prognostications.

As soon as a Tibetan child is born, the parents consult an astrologer-priest, who draws up a horoscope detailing the main events to come in the life of the infant.

In this document are set forth the pains and penalties resultant on misdeeds committed in former lives, which have to be expiated before any merit can be acquired Such consequences may, however, be avoided by the performance of religious ceremonies, which have to be performed by other priests, who must be paid for their services.

Woe betide any layman who ignores the ceremonies laid down in his horoscope! He is told that he will probably be reborn in his next incarnation, as a worm or a pig, or will be doomed to suffer eons of torment in one of the sixteen hells of Lamaism, eight of which are hot and eight cold.

The astrologers draw up horoscopes by consulting the stars, by dice or bones, or by working out the various combinations on specially prepared charts, according to the hour and day of birth.

To those who talk and talk and talk
This proverb should appeal:
"The steam that blows the whistle
Will never turn the wheel."

Dora—"Don't you think it would be a good idea to have my face lifted?" Delia—"Clean off, my dear, if you could get another."

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NO MEDICINE LIKE BABY'S OWN TABLETS

For Either the Newborn Babe or the Growing Child.

There is no other medicine to equal Baby's Own Tablets for little ones—whether it be for the new born babe or the growing child the Tablets always do good. They are absolutely free from opiates or other harmful drugs and the mother can always feel safe in using them.

Concerning the Tablets, Mrs. John Armour, R.R. 1, South Monaghan, Ont., says:—"We have three fine, healthy children, to whom, when a medicine is needed, we have given only Baby's Own Tablets. The Tablets are the best medicine you can keep in any home where there are young children."

Baby's Own Tablets are a mild but thorough laxative which regulate the stomach and bowels; banish constipation and indigestion; break up colds and simple fever and make teething easy. They are sold by medicine dealers or direct by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Fire Menace Follows Devastating Floods

Many Cases of Spontaneous Combustion Reported in Vermont Hay Mows

That water is not the best agent in fighting fire is indicated by present conditions in Northern Vermont and Lower Quebec where floods inundated the river valleys a few weeks ago. According to a bulletin from the Department of Agriculture at Washington several cases of spontaneous combustion have been reported from the stricken sections and more are feared. In the lower valleys hundreds of barns, filled with hay, were covered or nearly covered with water and the fodder got soaked. Since the floods receded this has started to heat badly and where conditions were exactly right, has burst into flames. In many instances it has been found necessary to remove the hay while in others a careful watch has had to be maintained over heated areas. A special squad of chemical engineers from the University of Vermont, is studying the situation with a view toward outlining a scheme of control over spontaneous combustion, such control measures, in its opinion being finitely necessary, as little study has been made of this, very frequent, cause of barn fires.

Minard's Liniment for Colds.

The St. Lawrence Waterway

Toronto Telegram (Ind. Cons.): These columns have never believed that the Waterways Treaty would work out otherwise than every treaty between Canada and the United States has worked out. Advantages that United States can claim under an Anglo-American treaty are always collected. Advantages that Canada might claim under an Anglo-American treaty are never collected.

Bunty was told at school that Nelson "did not know what fear meant" "Silly man!" she said; "why didn't he ask someone?"

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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The Exodus

Toronto Mail and Empire (Cons.): People leave Canada because employment is not to be had here, and they go to the United States because employment can be obtained there. For the most part they are following their jobs, lost to them in Canada because their industry here has been left without protection, exposed to the withering competition of protected industry in the United States. The odds in trade policy as between Canada and the United States are too heavily against Canada, costing this country the loss of much of our home market and costing in consequence the loss of scores of thousands of our poulation every year.

Canada and Foreign Trade

Manitoba Free Press (Lib.): (An appeal is made for more trade representatives in the United States). The development of the trade services of the country are almost certain to be followed by the development of a Canadian diplomatic and consular service, because the latter is required to give the former its full driving force. Trade has a difficult course when the international contact is not properly adjusted, and such adjustment is the work of the diplomatic agent. He prepares the way for international commerce. . . . The cost is not the vital concern.

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Minesing, Ontario.—"I am a practical nurse and I recommend Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to suffering women. For three months I was almost helpless and could not sit at the table long enough to drink a cup of tea. Many a time my husband carried me to bed. I would be so weak. Then he read in the paper of a woman suffering as I did who got better after taking the Vegetable Compound, so he went and got it for me. When I had taken three bottles I was just like a new woman and have had splendid health ever since. When I feel any bearing-down pains I always take it; sometimes a half bottle or whatever I need. It is my only medicine and I have told many a one about it. Any one wanting to know more about Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, I will gladly write to her. I do all I can to recommend it for I feel I owe my life and strength to it."—Mrs. NEAL BOWSER, R.R. 1, Minesing, Ontario.

Do you feel broken-down, nervous, and weak sometimes? Do you have this horrid feeling of fear which sometimes comes to women when they are not well? Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is excellent to take at such a time. It always helps, and if taken regularly and persistently will relieve this condition.