

The Free Press Short Story

A SERVANT IN THE HOUSE

By WALTER ELLIS

WIFE in the army now, Janie—the army of the unemployed," said Clara Fulton to her roommate as she sat down wearily. Jane Stuart had been studying the column headed "Help Wanted—Female" in the evening paper. A woefully short column, sad to relate. She flung the paper aside. "Looks as if nobody needed female help these days," she remarked. "There's nothing in the paper except ads for house-to-house canvassers and cooks and housemaids."

morning. She made a note of the address. Returning to report the news to Clara, Jane found her enthusiastic. "That sounds fine. That address is in Chevy Chase, which is a good neighborhood. They ought to be nice people." "I don't know yet whether they'll want me or not," objected Jane. "Nonsense! Once she sees you, there will be nothing to it. No one is going to pass up an opportunity to get a graduate nurse for twenty a month."

paratively simple. Miss Glasgow was kind and thoughtful. Jane did not see as much of Doctor Valentine as might have been expected. His work kept him away from home a good deal. As had been the case at the hospital, he was faultlessly polite and courteous, but as impersonal as though Jane had been a total stranger. His reserve seemed impenetrable. The one weak spot in the doctor's armor was his affection for his little daughter, Betty. As much of his time at home as possible was spent with the baby. In her company he forgot his cool reserve and was his natural self. Why could he not be that way with everyone, Jane wondered?

Weekly Garden-Graph Written by DEAN HALLIDAY for Central Press—Canadian. ROOTED SUCKER FROM PARENT PLANT. A self-increasing evergreen. Mahonia is a low-growing evergreen shrub, handsome in a shrubby border or a foundation planting.

He insisted upon full details regarding the event of the previous night. Miss Glasgow supplied the details which the girl omitted. She was loud in her praise of Jane's efficiency. After hearing her story, Doctor Valentine agreed. "It's a wonder the child ever pulled through. No doctor could have done more."

WHO WILL THEY BE? The threat of increased accident hazards in Ontario was emphasized today in a bulletin sent out to almost 6,000 members of the Industrial Accident Prevention Associations. The bulletin points out that 135 persons will be killed and 3,800 injured during the three-month period ending August 31st, if the present accident trend on the highways continues at its present level throughout the Province.

Motorists planning a trip are advised to check the mechanical condition of their cars. Lights, brakes, tires and steering mechanism should be examined. An early start is advised to allow ample time for reaching destinations without excessive speed. For the return journey, an early start home is recommended to avoid the dangers of driving in heavy traffic when energy is at low ebb.

Parents are advised to keep their children from playing on the streets. The dangers of traffic and the risk of playing near parked cars should constantly be impressed upon young children.

Doctor Valentine called early next morning. He had just returned from the accident where the rescue work had been completed. Informed at the hospital that his aunt had been trying to reach him during the night, he was clearly much worried about Betty.

Jane minimized the gravity of the child's illness. Finally, she convinced him that there was now no cause for worry. The doctor came home somewhat later.

Miss Glasgow hurried off, while Jane commenced to apply the measures she knew were necessary. The child's face commenced to take on a bluish tinge around the mouth and under the eyes. Cyanosis! Serious, indeed!

At the telephone Miss Glasgow was informed that Doctor Valentine was not at the hospital and could not be reached. She explained the urgent nature of the call, and asked if any doctor could possibly be reached there. The hospital attendant explained that all available doctors and nurses in the city had been called to the scene of an accident. The roof of a popular picture house had collapsed beneath the weight of the snow. Hundreds had been trapped. Many were killed or hurt.

She was advised to try to find a doctor in her own neighborhood. She knew of several who lived near by. One by one, she called their homes. Each time the reply was the same. "He's gone to the accident. We don't know how to reach him." Frantic with fear, Miss Glasgow finally gave up and hurried back to Jane. "It's up to us, then," Jane was grim, but cool. "See if there's a can of ether in the doctor's spare kit."

FIFTY MILLION LETTERS GIVE IMPERIAL AIRWAYS WORLD RECORD FOR MAILS. An average of over a million and a quarter pounds of mail is carried every three months in Imperial Airways' airliners, according to a report received by Trans-Canada Air Lines. This amounts to approximately 60,000,000 letters. Each letter, the report reveals, travels approximately 4,750 miles on the Empire routes.

The average distance travelled by each of the passengers on the Empire routes alone was approximately 2,300 miles, which is equivalent to a journey across Canada from Montreal to Vancouver, or across the Pacific from San Francisco to Honolulu.

In addition to mail and passengers, 330,750 lbs. of freight and excess baggage were carried on Imperial Airways overseas services during the three months. Each aircraft operating the Empire and European services carried an average payload of 5,600 lbs. per trip, according to the same report.

Impressive increases are also revealed in the passenger traffic. Approximately 10,000 passengers were carried on Im-

PREPAREDNESS FELLOW. Judge: Your client is charged with being in accessory before the fact. Lawyer: Well, you see, Judge, he's one of those preparedness fellows. JUST OLD BOYS. "Men are 'only grown-up boys,'" says a woman novelist. The child who used to take the clock to pieces to see how it works now does the same to his car to see why it doesn't.

SO OPPORTUNE! Mrs. Mulligan—My husband is ever so lucky! Mrs. Callahan—Really! In what way? Mrs. Mulligan—Yesterday he took out an accident insurance and to-day a brick fell on his head. THERE'S BEEN TIME. Small Girl (bored with history lesson)—I should have thought that Henry the Eighth business would have blown over by now.

Death Calls Two Canadian Statesmen. HON. FERNAND RINFRET. HON. W. G. ERNST. Death came to two noted Canadian politicians, one a member of the present Dominion Cabinet, and the other a former Cabinet Minister, when Hon. Fernand Rinfret, Canada's Secretary of State, succumbed in Los Angeles, and Hon. W. G. Ernst, former Minister of Fisheries, died at his home in Bridgewater, N.S. Both deaths occurred within 24 hours. Mr. Rinfret, one of French Canada's most distinguished sons, was 56. Mr. Ernst was 42. He was named to the Conservative Cabinet of Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett shortly before the 1935 election.

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