

**RAREBIT UNDER THE GLASS.**

The Welsh rarebit is a creature mar- larial of complexion, fibrous and com- plex as to cellular construction, threatening of flavor and fearful as to portent. It is sponsor to a whole company of digestive discomforts and mother to the nightmare. This is the popular opinion, but, like many an- other popular view, it is fallacious, says the Toledo Blade. Not that we say so. No, indeed. But Naturalist James Wilson, secretary of the de- partment of agriculture, is about to put out a monograph upon the genus rare- bitidea and each and every species thereof is to have the very cleanest bill of health possible under the pure food law. It is declared in Washing- ton that a special poison squad has been delivered over to the terrors of the rarebit. It has passed through the ordeal smiling. Not a man was wounded. Not one lay down his life. If there were nightmares, they were bitted and saddled and now nose about the poison squad's pockets for lumps of sugar. The whole system of preconceived ideas as to the history and habits of the rarebit, whether of domestic or jungle-breeding, has been exploded.

A Russian who recently came to this country and located in Pittsburg became very irate because his wife "was disobeid and had become im- bued with American ideas." So he threatened to shoot the woman, and did tear her clothes from her and burn them in the street. Then the police took a hand, and the overzeal- ous Russian was fined \$50 and sen- tenced to 90 days in the work- house. When he has paid up and gets out he is likely to have a lasting recognition of the fact that one "American idea" is that a husband cannot treat his wife like a slave. And if he objects he is at liberty to re- turn to the land where the laws are less objectionable to him.

The report of the fire loss for the United States and Canada during No- vember is not as encouraging as it might be. The total for the month was \$16,407,000, against \$14,808,000 in 1909 and \$13,834,000 in 1908. The ag- gregate for the 11 months ended with November was \$212,942,000 in 1910, \$183,673,000 in 1909 and \$223,932,000 in 1908. December is generally a bad fire-month, and the figures for the en- tire year are not likely to generate hope that real reform has set in. The destruction by fire is entirely too large, and effective methods of check- ing it would represent wise conserva- tion.

A dispatch from Berlin informs us that the kaiser drinks with "frankly boyish enjoyment." We are glad to hear that he enjoys it. We were afraid that he might do it purely out of patriotism.

One thousand presumably vigorous young women at Vassar, all in danger of hunger because they have no cooks! This looks like a pressing need for a mixture of the old-fashion- ed girl with modern woman.

Thinking that she was a burglar a New Mexico man shot his niece when she called him to breakfast. These hair-trigger people are becoming a real nuisance.

A Chicago man promises to give the public a recipe for making ice faster than nature. It would be the most poetic kind of justice for the public to be able to freeze out ice trusts.

Harvard physical director says women are becoming masculine. Poss- ibly he's near-sighted and the hobble skirt may be the explanation.

The fashionable woman seeks a hat that does not permit her to see and a skirt that scarcely permits her to walk.

A Philadelphia man committed sui- cide with a safety razor, but so far we haven't heard of a woman cutting her corners with one.

Brooklyn's oldest citizen is 106, and he says his longevity is due to the fact that he never buys anything at a drug store except postage stamps.

The weather in Alaska is easier imagined than described—provided the cold increases as one goes north.

**THE STAGE TYPE.**

The National Society of New Eng- land Women, with headquarters in New York, has begun a crusade against the familiar burlesque crea- ture of corkscrew curls and twang. "There are countless New England plays," says the indignant society, "yet who ever saw a real New Eng- land woman on the stage." As stage types crystallize, such complaints are likely to become still more frequent. After the racial protests will come those of the classes, says the Chicago Record-Herald. The trust magnates will file their objections; the report- ers; the commercial travelers; the club women; perhaps even the "ad- venturesses," with their cigarettes and cocktails. "I do not pay you to think, but to write," once said a cer- tain employer of literary labor. "I do not pay you to observe, but to act," might seem to be the word of the av- erage manager to his performers. So long as these blink life and are con- tent to pattern after one another the "copy-cat" will thrive, well-worn grooves will be worn deeper still, types will stiffen into rigidity and complaints from the "front" will multi- ply. The New England woman should not regard herself as an iso- lated victim. There are others, and she might join with them in trying to freshen up the actors' outlook on life and to wait a little ozone across the dusty perfumes of the stage.

Continental United States has a pop- ulation of over 91,000,000. That does not include outlying possessions, which have a number of millions more. The figures put this country foremost among nations having a homogenous and united people. There are several countries where the ag- gregate population is larger, includ- ing China and India with their hun- dreds of millions. But nowhere else is there such solidarity and harmony of general purpose as in the United States. We have out little differences, political and otherwise; but taking in the fundamentals the Americans are a pretty harmonious family.

The New York police have captured a band of kidnapers. This ought to afford a fine chance to make so signal an example of retribution that this despicable form of crime will receive a staggering blow to its industry of blackmailing distracted parents.

"A man with a low salary has a bet- ter chance to become rich than a man with a high salary, avers a wealthy Chicagoan. Hence a vast majority of our citizens are prospective million- aires.

New England women are protesting against the use of corkscrew curls by stage people to portray their type. This is quite right. New England women are no longer in the daguer- reotype period.

Since wholesale prices of meat have gone up a cent in Omaha, watch and see whether your butcher does not hear of it much more promptly than he did of the preceding decline of a much larger amount.

A class in a cooking school in Prov- idence had all its members poisoned with their own cooking. This was retribution swift and sure, but it gave a great lesson to the community.

They have discovered the bones of a huge reptile millions of years old in New Jersey. That state seems to have had its drawbacks as a place of residence from time immemorial.

A St. Louis man made his wife cut his hair. Barbering, however, will never be included in any domestic science course.

It is announced that the last surviv- ing daughter of the American revolu- tion has just died again, proving that we are a hardy race.

If the average husband talked about women as some of the college professors do family jars would be- come quite common.

Twenty Boston high school girls have formed a walking club. It will not be much of a success if the girls insist on wearing hobble skirts.

That the Irish should control Brit- ish affairs is one of those revenges in which time and fate delight.

Is there no way to save the bird- men from death except by clipping their wings?

If Hayti and San Domingo go to war why not let them emulate the Kilkenny cats?

Some men give up as readily to masked bandits as they do to fake gold mine promoters.

But is shooting ducks from an aero- plane true sportsmanship? Why not give the ducks a chance?

Maybe some people prefer ragtime and organized cheering because it drowns the other kind of music.

If those who indulge in organized cheering do not enjoy it they think they do, which is much the same.

Orville Wright says that aviation is safer than automobiling. Undoubted- ly so—for the innocent bystanders.

If the south pole does not receive visitors it may be because nobody is knocking at the refrigerator door.

An insane woman has won a prize for a magazine poem. That throws light on a hitherto unanswered ques- tion.

That New York proposition to add goats to automobile horns is calcu- lated to increase the jumping record on Broadway.

A Pittsburg man is raising a family on \$1.35 a day. Still he believes that the family is entitled to the most credit for this.

That New York woman who thinks that the anti-kissing crusade has lessened the practice should ask the small boy under the sofa.

Wonder if the young man who thinks there is only one girl in the world for him realizes that the popu- lation of the country is 93,402,151.

Latham, the aviator, has proved that he can shoot ducks from an aero- plane. The pity of it is that he did not prove that he could kill all he hit.

It has been discovered that an es- tate which has been in litigation for 42 years has doubled in value. Prob- ably the lawyers' fees have not been paid yet.

The Iowa pedagogue who asserts that loud clothes make noisy persons has got the cart before the horse. Noisy persons are responsible for loud clothes.

Portland, Ore., expects to have a million inhabitants in 25 years. All right, but Portland should take it to heart that she cannot get them by padding the census.

What's the sense in kicking because you have to take the ashes from un- der the furnace? A man in Iowa has sued for divorce because his wife made him sleep with the cows.

A machine that measures thought has been invented. It will not have to go very fast in measuring the thought of the young man who pro- poses to reform by first going on a spree.

In view of the published assertion that about 30 per cent. of the people of New York state are insane, it is not surprising that insanity is so fre- quently pleaded there as an excuse for crime.

American mules are preferred to all other kinds in South Africa. Prob- ably the native dialects there are the nearest possible approach in sound to the language on which the mules are brought up.

The census bureau reports that 3,739,000 telegraph and telephone poles were used in 1909. Sixty-five per cent. of them were of cedar. Here is one item to explain why timber is growing scarce.

Every now and then you hear some- one discussing the weather, say: "The paper said" so and so. Now, the pa- pers have enough to answer for with- out being charged with the mistakes of the weather bureau.

A Los Angeles newspaper is plan- ning to have copies delivered by aero- plane to its subscribers. It is hoped the subscribers will not complain if the aviators did not at first get off and slip the papers under the door mats.

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If war scares keep on accumulating they may be offered by the dozen at reduced rates.

When women are required to sit on juries they should be permitted to bring their knitting.

Western farmers are returning to the effete east to buy up the deserted farms of that section.

Fir lumber has gone up one dollar on the thousand. Now, all to- gether: This is going too fir!

Goose-bone prophets are of the opinion that this winter will stretch out as long as a British election.

Alfalfa in various forms is to be served at a banquet in Colorado. Now who is "brother to the ox?"

Alexander wept because he had no more worlds to conquer when he should have hustled around and found a few.

Pittsburg wants to annex about a dozen suburbs. This is likely to start a new annexation movement in Cleveland.

The unarmored cruiser Detroit, which cost \$1,233,000, has just been sold for \$20,000. So run the fighting ships away.

New York's largest hotel is to cost \$17,000,000. It is to be built on Her- ald square at Twenty-fourth street and Broadway.

School teachers think they are en- titled to pensions, but can teaching be called war since corporal punish- ment has been abolished?

A Boston man declares that he can prove that there are nine hells, and we presume that discovering that the furnace fire is out is one of them.

New York's biggest hotel, to be erected next year, is to have 1,600 sleeping rooms and 1,000 baths. The clerk will wear a diamond as big as a walnut.

That New York man who started to shoot himself but thrice changed his mind in time to dodge the bullets may live to congratulate himself on his fickleness.

Morocco is to pay money to Spain for the war which Spain recently fought in Morocco. Such is the em- barrassing consequence of coming out only second best.

Maybe some time they will invent a padded aeroplane which will not rise more than ten feet from the ground. Then the careful man will become interested.

Track athletics in base fall and track and football and baseball in the spring and now the college student has ice hockey all winter. And yet he is too late to play too little.

When they go to exhuming the bones of the dinosaur in the Palisades, right across from upper New York, it looks like a cruel infringement of the Carnegie Museum's copyright.

Still there is this much to be said for those attempts to break the alti- tude record: In case of accident a few thousand feet more or less makes no difference, even to the undertaker.

A barber in Duluth has invented "buttonless suspenders." If you have contracted the habit of wearing sus- penders with buttons on them, fellow mortal, here is your chance to break yourself of it.

When rats carry plague and cats and dogs that kill or drive them away carry diphtheria and tuberculosis, both of which are affirmed by the ex- perts, it seems there is nothing left for threatened humanity but to get off the earth.

That technical secret attack upon the Atlantic coast by our returning battleship fleet will be valueless un- less the Mole St. Nicholas liar and the New England faker who heard so much cannonading at sea in 1898 so much to get into the game.

Miffed by the jeers of the country at large over the brand of weather it is supposed to start for the refrigera- tion of mankind, Medicine Hat pro- poses to change its name. Since the point is on its style of weather it would be more pertinent to change that.