

STARS AND PLANETS

There is a good deal of difference, as science has found out, in the visibility of stars and planets when viewed through a telescope by daylight. This varies according to the color of the heavenly bodies. The red or yellow stars are much more easily seen than the white ones. Unless the telescope is focused with the greatest accuracy often an extremely bright star will be absolutely lost against a daylight field. As a general thing the planets are much less visible in daylight than stars. The reason for this is that the telescope diminishes the brightness of the planet's disc as well as of the sky, and, therefore, does not heighten the contrast as in the case of the star. Two of the planets, however, Venus and Mercury, are better observed in daylight than in darkness. Saturn on the other hand, can hardly be seen even through a five-inch telescope, except at night.

CURIOUS BELIEFS

Superstitious Londoners Believe in Certain "Cures"

A London paper says: Most numerous and perhaps queerest of all, are the "cures" which Mr. Lovett has discovered to be used by simple-minded folk in London for many of the ills the flesh is heir to. They include amulets made of amber or shaped like a heart to promote good health, flints for the gout, and bones and skins of cats for rheumatism. A necklace of blue beads is also regarded as a certain cure for bronchitis by many London people. Mr. Lovett says he has found 137 instances of the most implicit belief in this "remedy." But perhaps the most picturesque of all his discoveries of this kind is the follow-

ing: Lovett was asked by a woman who dealt in second-hand clothes if he would like to know of a good cure for whooping cough? She told him she had cured several cases by cutting off some hair from the back of the neck of a child who was suffering from the disease, placing the hair between two pieces of bread and butter, and giving it to the first passing dog or cat! The disease would then pass from the child to the dog, and the former would be cured. It is amazing to find this belief, which is common to savage races in many parts of the world, existing in London to-day.

MOVIES OF CANADA

Shown to Thousands of People in the United States

Western Canada attractions are made known in all the chief centres of the United States in a more attractive form and on a more extensive scale than has hitherto attempted. By means of the moving picture camera the life and resources of the West are shown over a circuit covering 4,000 theatres, and in this way many thousands of people are reached and interested in the Dominion who might otherwise only hear of the country incidentally. The films were taken under the auspices of the Grand Trunk Pacific and include a variety of pictures in the prairie harvest fields and through the Canadian Rockies. One of the most interesting pictures is the arrival of a fishing boat at Prince Rupert with 80,000 pounds of halibut on board, which enabled the photographer to secure a series of views showing the expeditious method of transferring the fish from the boat to the cars for Eastern shipment.

Borrowing from Peter to pay Paul, is it up with Paul, but eventually, Peter fore-closes on the mortgage.

Eagle and Snake. The eagle will dive upon a snake whenever it gets the chance. The eagle usually swoops upon its prey, seizes it by the tail, bears it aloft and lets it fall. It never attacks it when coiled, but first drives it to flight by screams and the beating of its wings. The snake is either killed or stunned by the fall, whereupon the eagle carefully cuts off the head and devours the body, which is usually very fat.

Under Obligation.

"That man Jones backed me into a corner last night and kept me there two hours telling me the bright things his two-year-old boy has said." "Gosh! You must owe Jones an awful lot of money if you'll stand for that!"

Contrary to Precedent.

"The speaker seems to be an unusually modest man." "What makes you think so?" "He makes all his promises in the first person plural and all his excuses in the first person singular."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

THIS SHAVING BRUSH IS USED BUT ONCE



A sanitary shaving brush which is designed to be used but once and then thrown away has been patented recently. To a handle of wood, or other inexpensive material, is fastened a meshed bag, or gauze container, in which are pieces of sponge and a small amount of powdered soap. By immersing the brush in water and then applying it to the face a lather can be worked up readily. The device is designed for use in barber shops particularly so that each patron may have his face lathered with a brush used on no one else. Since inexpensive materials can be employed in making these brushes, they can be discarded after being used once.—Popular Mechanics.

WHERE LIGHTNING STRIKES

Precautions to Take When in Open—Avoid Metals

Out of doors the most dangerous places during a thunderstorm are evidently in open fields, under isolated trees, and near wire fences. Small sheds and other shelters are almost equally as dangerous as isolated trees, especially if the sheds are in the open, away from larger buildings. Thick timber is undoubtedly the safest place to seek out of doors, for the reason that a single tree under which a person might take shelter in a forest area is not as likely to receive a stroke as a single object or a person in an open space of equal area.

Although it is not possible to guard completely against being struck by lightning, the risk may be minimized considerably by adopting a few simple precautions. In seeking shelter from the heavy rain which usually accompanies a storm, do not select a high and isolated tree. This is a good mark for the lightning. Safety may be found in a low-lying wood, where a great number of trees dissipate the electrical energy.

When a storm is imminent, move away from high ground to low ground, do not open a metal-tipped umbrella, and do not carry iron instruments. Iron fences or galvanized metal buildings are extremely dangerous, and the general policy should be to get as close to the earth as possible and away from prominent and metallic objects which may make a track for the lightning. If in a house, keep on the ground floor and away from the chimney. But although all these precautions are wise, none of them can assure you absolute safety when in the path of an electrical storm.

ADVICE ABOUT HORSES

Keep a little oxide of zinc ointment on hand. It is good for scratches and sores.

Do not allow the horses too much water after feeding. A little water and often, is a good rule while at the fall plowing.

When the ground gets soft in the fall is a very good time to start the colt; the plow being a very suitable implement for a beginning.

Do not sell all the good horses and keep the "plugs" for the boy to work. This is a poor way to encourage him to look after his team well.

Don't expect the hired man to keep his team fat without oats, and don't allow him to feed more than four or five quarts at a feed.

LIVING BAROMETER

No Need to Buy Weather Glass—Make Use of Leech

A leech confined in a glass jar of water will prove an excellent weather prophet. If the weather is to continue fine the leech lies motionless at the bottom of the jar and rolled up together in a spiral form. If it is to rain, either before or after noon, it is found to have crept up to the top of its lodging, and there remains till the weather is settled. If we are to have wind the poor prisoner gallops through his limpid habitation with amazing swiftness, and seldom rests till it begins to blow hard. If a remarkable storm of thunder and lightning is to succeed, for some days before the leech lodges almost continually without water, and gives itself up to violent throes and convulsive motions. In frost, as in clear summer weather, it lies constantly at the bottom; and in snow as in rainy weather, it pitches its dwelling on the very mouth of the vial.

Origin of "Hullo!"

When you shout "Hullo!" you are really saying "A loup!" the warning cry given by forest residents in the old days, and equivalent to "Wolf!" It is said that "Hullo!" still survives in Carnwood Forest as a halting term. If you repeat "A loup!" pronounced "ah loo" quickly you will see how "Hullo!" arose.

Ferguson's Stratagem

It Was Intended to Capture a Post of Women Soldiers.

By OSCAR COX

The yachting season was drawing to a close, and Jim Hathaway concluded to have one more cruise before putting the Eveline out of commission for the winter. He collected such of his men friends as were able to get away—some of them took their vacations late—and the party set sail well equipped for a breezy time.

They had been out several days when they came in sight of an island on the summit of which floated a United States flag. Passing a man in a boat fishing, they asked him if the flag marked a government military post. They were informed that it did not. A number of young women who believed in preparedness had leased the island for a women's barracks and drill ground. They had formed a company and were drilling regularly.

This information interested the young men greatly. After leaving the informant Hathaway said:

"Boys, I can't think of any better way to train these girls in the art of self defense than to attack the island. The way to learn how to do a thing is to do it. If they are obliged to defend themselves against us they will know how to take care of themselves when called upon to confront a real enemy."

"What are you going to fight 'em with?" asked Bob Elliot.

"Well, we have the little salute gun. We might fire stones over their heads with it," replied Hathaway.

"That wouldn't scare them," said Elliot. "One of the principal parts in war is strategy. Suppose we try it on." "It is my opinion," said Luke Medge, the homeliest man of the party, "that any fellow who tries strategy with a woman will get beaten."

By this time they were within a few hundred yards of the island and were met by a rowboat containing four girls in uniform, with a coxswain, who told them that only men in company with women were allowed on the island except officers of the United States army who were sent there to give instruction. Hathaway replied that their party had no intention whatever of intruding upon the post and commended the ladies highly for their patriotism.

Elliot, who had had marked success with girls and always carried such munitions of war as he considered especially effective in his conquests, hurried below and returned with a two pound box of candy. The eyes of the oarsmen glistened at sight of it, but the coxswain, who was in command of the crew, cast a contemptuous glance at Bob and ordered them to give way. This produced a laugh on Bob, who had proposed strategy, but he bore the ridicule with equanimity.

"There were five girls in the boat," he said, "and four of them were ready to sell out for the sweets. The coxswain had a temporary advantage, but there were four to one to be tempted. Well, we see how that shall laugh last."

"How would it do," suggested Billy Charley, "for one of us to personate a United States officer sent to drill the company?"

"That would involve one man effecting an entrance," said Hathaway, "and he would have to be unknown as belonging to our party. If he got into the barracks he might connive at the rest of us following him. Is there a man among us who knows anything about military matters?"

A poll was taken, with the result that not a man had ever handled a musket. Ferguson had been a member of a crack cavalry troop, but had always shirked drill. Besides, it was not likely there were any horses on the island. From all appearances the school was devoted to infantry training.

However, it was decided to sail for the mainland, where Ferguson, who was to personate an army officer, procured in a secondhand store a cap ornamented with brass buttons. Hiring a single sticker without a job, it was manned by two of the crew of the Eveline, who had not left their berths when the patrol boat was met, and consequently they had not been seen by the girls. These fellows purchased canvas suits, the shirts having blue collars, and when rigged out in them would very well pass for navy tars. Then the Nautilus—that was the single sticker's name—sailed for the island, followed by the Eveline.

On nearing the island the Eveline dropped farther astern, while the Nautilus sailed on straight for the dock, flying the stars and stripes from the masthead, indicating—so it was hoped—that a government officer was aboard. A sentry was walking past on the dock, a girl with light hair and blue eyes, little of the hair being visible, since it was tucked away under a military felt hat with a large brim. Ferguson sprang out of the boat, and, walking as if stiffened in his spine by a ramrod, he triangulated to the sentry and asked where he would find the commander of the post. The sentry called the corporal of the guard, which was posted a short distance away, and when she came Ferguson asked to see the commanding officer, stating briefly that he was on government business. The corporal looked at his civilian apparel, especially the brass buttons on his cap, then called the sergeant of the

guard, who, after a brief interview, conducted him to the house constituting the barracks. The commandant was sitting in a 6 by 9 room before a table, on which were papers. Ferguson said:

"I received a telegram this morning from the department headquarters ordering me to inspect this post and render any information or assistance you might need. I am Lieutenant Charles Ferguson of the—th cavalry."

"I am very glad to see you, lieutenant," replied the officer. "Had you announced your coming or even appeared in uniform you would have been received with military honors."

"Unfortunately, I was visiting a friend when I received the order," replied Ferguson, "and I never wear a uniform except when on duty. My baggage being a hundred miles away, I was obliged to report here in mufti, with the exception of this cap, which I use for auto driving."

The captain asked to see Ferguson's order to inspect the post. He had sent himself a telegram to that effect while on the mainland, and now pulled it out and handed it to the officer. Whether or not she was satisfied, she appeared to be so and, leading Ferguson out on to the parade, gave an order to turn out the company for inspection. The command was drawn up in line, the rear rank marched three paces to the rear, and the inspector, in company with the captain, walked along both ranks, each soldier handing him her gun for inspection. Ferguson had seen an inspection, so he cocked every piece and now and then wiped the metal with his white cambric handkerchief. When the inspection was over he returned to the captain's office, and the latter began to ply him with questions.

"We are weaker," she said, "in the matter of guard duty than anything else. I should like to have you mount a guard and instruct us upon the duties of the sentinel."

"The guard," replied Ferguson, "is mounted at any hour of the morning that the commandant directs. Tomorrow morning I will be happy to perform the ceremony for you."

Ferguson did not propose to be on the island the next morning unless in his true character. He couldn't mount a guard for a potato patch.

"Who mounts the guard?" asked the captain.

"The officer of the guard."

"Which guard—the old or the new?"

"The new guard," hazarded Ferguson. Now, Captain Mabel Hetherington knew that the guard is under the order of the officer of the day. Furthermore she knew that there is no officer of the guard, which is in command of a sergeant. But she said nothing. Ferguson would have preferred that she would say something rather than wear the look which appeared upon her face.

However, this look soon passed from her face, and, rising, she said:

"Now that we have had some of your instruction, lieutenant, I propose that we should relax from military formality, and I shall be happy to introduce you to my officers, and if your ideas of the distance between officer and private are not too rigid I will introduce you to some of the latter. Please wait here while I announce the introduction. You must remember that though soldiers we are still women, and a woman always desires to make herself presentable when about to be presented."

Leaving the room, she soon returned with her lieutenants and several privates. After a little conversation one by one the soldiers retired, except a lovely girl with eyes like a summer sky, who, when the others were gone, brought them to bear on Ferguson in a way that made him doubtful whether he was on earth or in heaven.

But presently this happiness was brought to an abrupt and humiliating end. The captain returned with a sergeant and a dozen privates, whom she halted in the hall, six beyond the door and six in rear of it. The captain advanced to Ferguson with the dignity of a soldier and said:

"Lieutenant, I'll trouble you to take position there," pointing to the interval.

Ferguson's face fell. He knew that he had given away his ignorance of military matters and was about to be ejected from the post as an impostor. A sergeant placed a feather over each ear, and a drum and life corps struck up the rogues' march. The order "Forward!" was given, and the captain marching beside him, Ferguson was escorted to the dock. There the captain asked him if he could swim. He admitted that he could.

The Eveline had sailed boldly up to a position near the dock, cast anchor, and her crew were waiting the result of Ferguson's maneuver. When they saw him coming with a feather behind each ear to the well known tune of the rogues' march the sight was too much for their gravity. If the captain had any doubt as to Ferguson being an impostor it was removed by the shout of merriment which greeted him from the deck of the Eveline.

He was marched to the edge of the dock, his escort took position behind him with fixed bayonets, and he was prodded to jump. He was glad enough to take to the water and as soon as he came up from his dive wrenched the feathers from his ears and threw them away. Amid the jeers of the soldiers and his companions he swam to the yacht and was taken aboard.

Before the Eveline's anchor could be raised the captain's orderly brought an invitation to the yacht's crew, including Ferguson, to visit the post the same evening and take part in a dance.

The invitation was accepted, and Ferguson received much attention from the officers and privates of the garrison. All admitted that he had played his part well, and if he had known anything about soldiering his ruse would have been successful.

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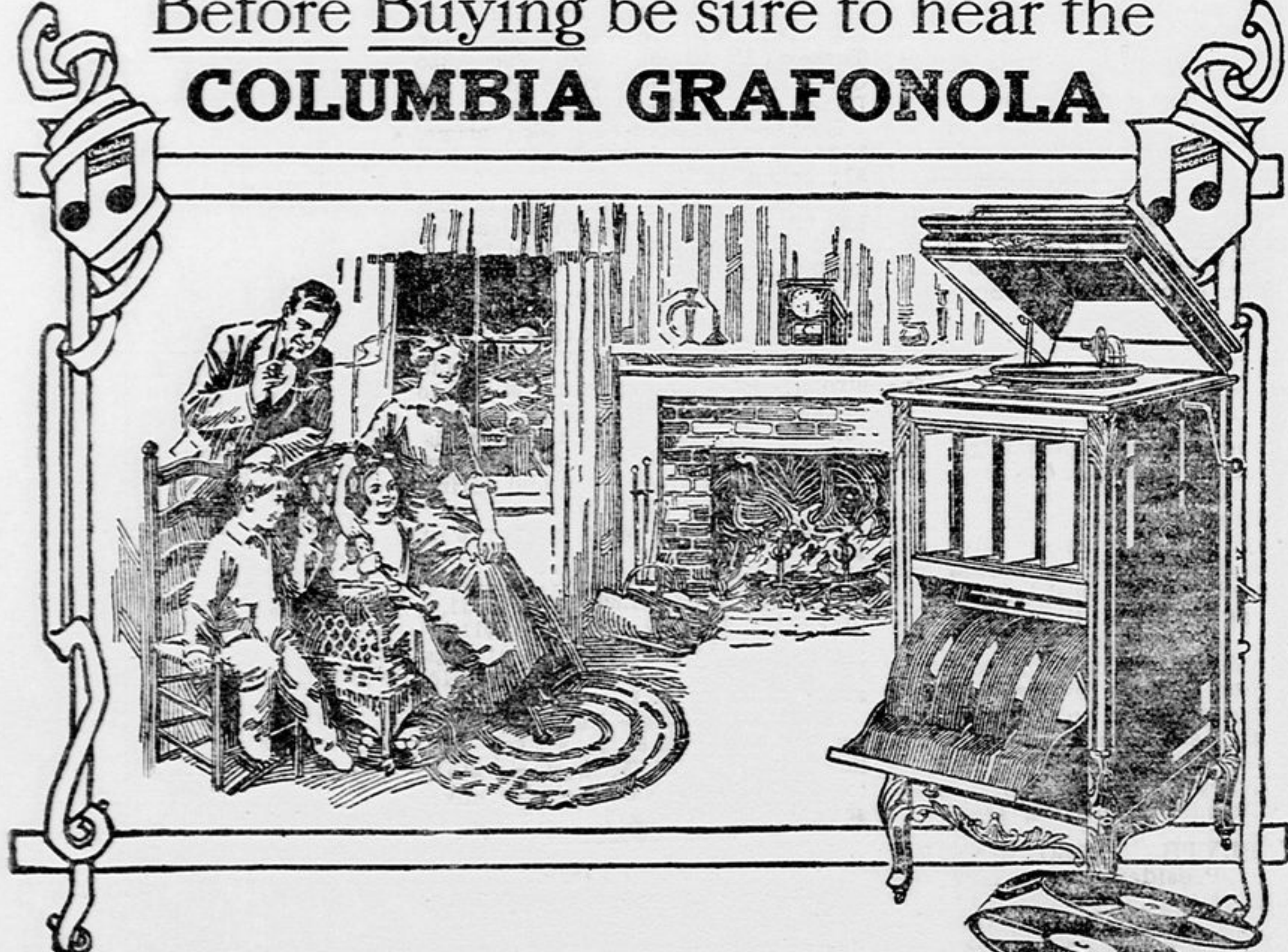
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