

The Romance Of Letters

The Role of the Post Office in Man's Everyday Existence

Gilbert Chesterton in an essay on Rudyard Kipling, speaking of things poetical, described the mailbox as the "sanctuary of human words," the place to which friends and lovers commit their messages, "conscious that when they have done so they are sacred, and not to be touched not only by others but even (a religious touch) by themselves." "Posting a letter," he adds, is "one of the few things left that are entirely romantic—for to be entirely romantic a thing must be irrevocable.

But that is only one side of the romance. The other and even more appealing part of this romantic story is the faithful (often ingenious) bearing to its destination and into the hands of millions (as if by a kind of magic) what is entrusted to the United States. The mailbox is but a door of the sanctuary. The post office is an institution of "enduring energy," as Emerson called it (even before it took on such mighty services as it performs today), guarded still by a "certainty in religious sentiment" in mankind. "I look upon it," said the great American, sage, "as a first measure of civilization." It is... a mere commercial enterprise. It is democracy's universal school of letters.

It is invidious, or would be, to make comparison with other departments of government, but I think that all will agree with Charles Sumner (with whom it was difficult to agree in all things) that it is the most universal of its beneficence: "There is nothing which is not helped by the post office." Here is his support of the statement with my own interpolations: "Is business in question?" he asks. "The post office is at hand with its invaluable aid, quickening and multiplying its activities." (And it has expanded beyond any dream of his in 1861, when letter rates were reduced to three cents but when the parcel post had not been thought of.) "Is it charity? The post office is the Good Samaritan omnipresent in all the highways of the land." (And like the Good Samaritan it meets any deficits at the inn.) "Is it education? The post office is schoolmaster, with school for all and scholars for the million." (We may now say by the ten millions, for all the literate as readers of the written and the printed word are its scholars and by reason of the rural free delivery, no one, however isolated or remote, is beyond the reach of its free tuition.)

But there is a function still more precious and fundamental than any of these or than all of them together—the exchanges between members of families, friends and lovers. These are golden threads which we weave into the daily fabric of our home life from our dear outside relationships. One, writing a long time ago, called friendship the great chain of human society and intercourse of letters one of the chiefest links of the chain. And though the air has given a new medium for speech at a distance, it does not take the place of the word which can be read and re-read and permanently kept. It is a significant thing that, when the life of a man of unusual attainments and influence is written, the letters which he has himself written generally offer the richest material.

Seeing the carriers this early morning in the streets with their burdens, I recalled a statement that was made at a service in memory of their comrades a year or two ago to the effect that the living postmen were placed on earth "to carry burdens." But they are not ordinary burdens. They are the most precious commerce of human exchange, whether written by hand or printed.

The distinction of this service would end the moment that its members ceased to regard as inviolate the communications which they bear between human minds in sharing experiences of joy and sorrow, in expressing affection and sympathy, in recording the things that still help to keep this practical world a place of demance. If, as Gilbert Chesterton said, the posting of letters is one of the few things left that are entirely romantic, another of these entirely romantic things is the receiving of letters. We thank God for the United States that mystically receives them, faithfully guards them and religiously delivers them.—John H. Finley.

The Cricket to October

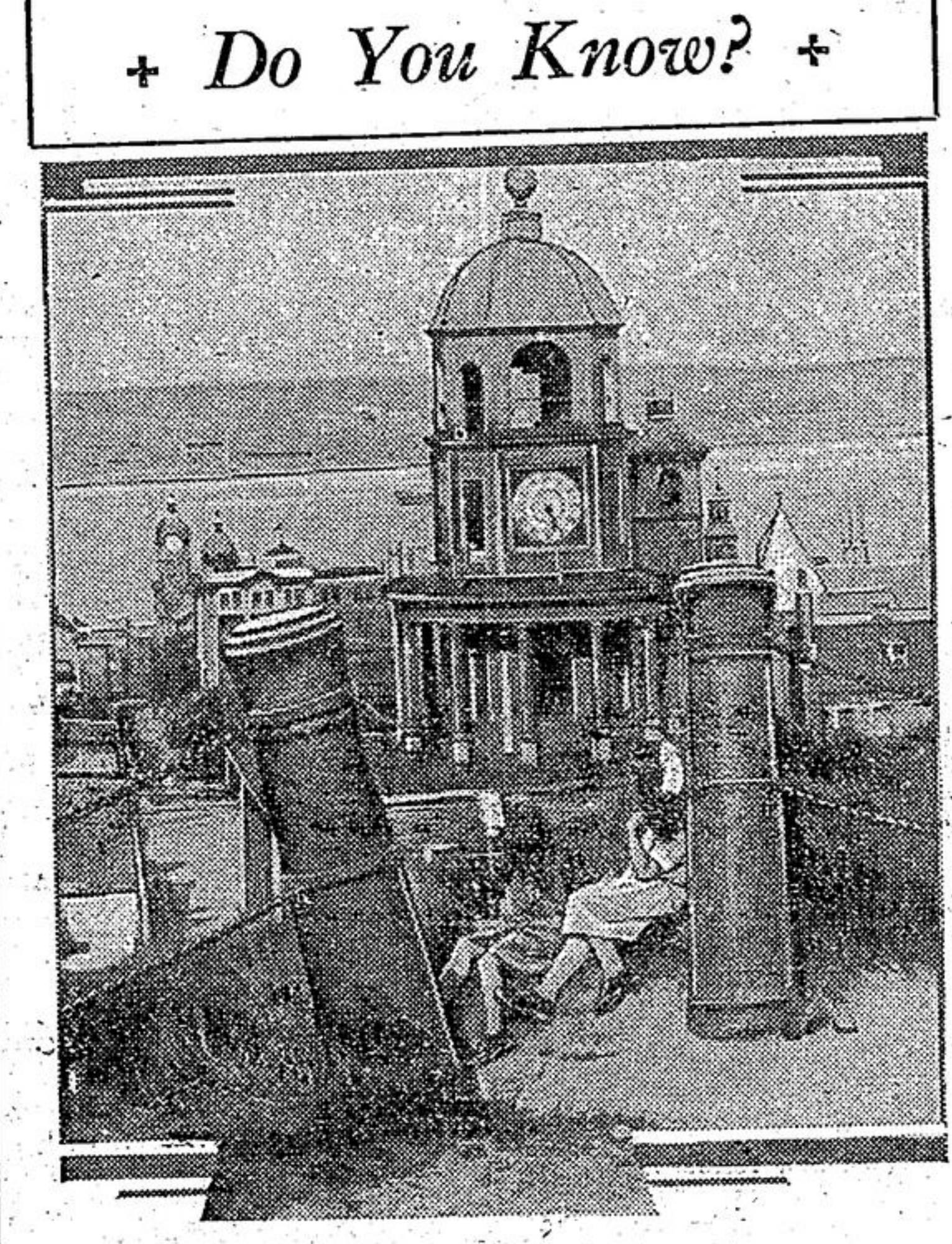
The long, pure light that brings To earth her perfect crown of bliss, Wanes slow—the thoughtful droop-trunk and bough And the faint breath of the earth-loving things Say this. Off when the dews at night Clasp the cool shadows, all in vain I look along the meadow's level dark To see the firefly lift her tender light Again From the thick-woven shade, Where, on the red-cupped moss today, A crimson ray all, the bluebird sends One melancholy note up the brown glade This way...

—Anne Whitney, in "Poems."

In Bed for Weeks

Miss Kerton Was Nervous and Anemic Until Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Restored Her Health

"I believe it is my duty to tell other sufferers of the wonderful relief I experienced from taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for anemia," writes Miss Mamie Kerton, Badjeros, Ont. "For three years I suffered from weakness, shivering and fainting spells, feeble pulse, poor appetite. I was nervous, restless and always pale. I was in bed for weeks at a time, until I put Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to the test. After taking three boxes I was restored to my normal health." Thousands of other young women have been benefited as Miss Kerton was. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills rebuild health by actually creating an abundance of new blood and increasing the blood cells thereby restoring wasted tissues and revitalizing the exhausted nervous system. Growing girls are greatly helped by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Try them. 50c a package at your druggist's.



That one of the oldest town clocks in North America is situated in Halifax, Nova Scotia? It was erected in 1802 and except for a few intervals for repairs it has been giving the time continuously since that date.

Ocean Voyage

Pulse of engines underneath. Ceaseless, faithful as a heart; Order, shining whiteness, peace; Current of a world apart— World where days are marked by bells. Nights are watches, and the while Fleet-off-foot men serve the ship, Mile slips by on rolling mile. Overhead the bright blue dome Curving to the water's rim; Rainbow-tinted in the dusk, Mystical, poetic, dim; Opalescent in the dawn. Pearly brilliant at high noon; Stars:rewn in the velvet night. Cloud-wracks flying past the moon. All around the restless sea, Blown to fury... smooth as glass; Foam-lace spreading in the wake; Flecks of distant ships that pass; Seaweed gardens; purple depths Where the magic kingdoms are; Fish that leap in silver arcs; Moon paths leading to a star. —Adele de Leeuw. "The world suffers a great deal from people who are uninteresting, because they themselves are not interested in anything."—Sir Adale Roche.

For COLDS

"I always use BABY'S OWN TABLETS to break up my baby's colds," writes Mrs. Wilbert Cokqueham, Sturgeon Falls, Ont. "When I see a cold coming on, it is BABY'S OWN TABLETS that I turn," writes Mrs. Robert Greenhorn, Phillipsville, Ont. Mothers everywhere report in like vein of the safe, sure results that follow the use of BABY'S OWN TABLETS in treating children's colds, teething troubles, simple fevers, disordered stomach, colic, constipation. 25 cents.

Dr. Williams' 246

BABY'S OWN TABLETS

Lisbon Traffic

Wheeled traffic offers more variety in Lisbon than in many other capitals of Europe. Modern traffic is very much in evidence; motorcars of all makes hoot their way through crowds of leisurely pedestrians, electric trams, turning sharp corners with grinding sound of wheels, urge stately coaches to give them free passage, by means of a emphatic bell. The coaches oblige, and with more expedition than do the private tram-cars, already described. These coaches are a link with the past. They rumble rather heavily over the stone pavement, drawn by horses decked out in a brave display of plated harness. The coachman is generally a typical Portuguese servant, with long side-whiskers, and he urges his steeds to high stepping rather than to speed. The horses are of the breed that figures in paintings of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, having small heads and round rumps, wavy flowing tails, arched crests and waving manes, and so much action that pace has to suffer; but dignity is maintained. Yet more primitive vehicles roll through the streets of Lisbon, plain box-like carts on solid wooden wheels, of a design unchanged since Roman times. These carts have a talent, far more pronounced than that of the private tram, for getting in the way and impeding traffic; the drivers are as imperious, to oburgation as the oxen that draw these obstructive conveyances. These varied forms of vehicles make up the daily pageant of the streets.—Captain B. Granville Baker, in "A Winter Holiday in Portugal."

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

O	H	M	S	O	N	G	F	U	N		
L	I	E	L	I	O	N	U	S	E	D	
D	E	N	I	A	L	O	A	R	G	O	
A	C	T	A	M	T	R	U	M			
O	R	G	O	N	E	B	A	S	E		
R	U	E	A	R	C	A	I	T			
A	N	G	A	T	H	E	R	S	A	I	
F	A	R	O	R	E	S	E	L	M		
C	H	I	P	A	V	E	S	N	A	P	
H	U	T	W	R	Y	P	A	D			
A	M	H	E	M	J	A	G	U	A	R	
R	U	D	E	O	T	I	C	E	R	A	
S	O	W	R	O	B	E	S	A	P		

Adversity
Sweet are the uses of adversity, which, like the toad, Ugly and venomous, yet wears a jewel in its head. —Shakespeare

A Unique Club

There has been no sign given that the Ugly Men's Association of Perth, West Australia, is going to change the name of the institution. The qualifications for membership which have always been simply the possession of ugliness have not, as far as can be learned, been altered. No doubt the members go about full of a sort of perverse, boyish pride in the possession of their unprepossessing exteriors. Of such institutional detail one can speak but in whimsical suppositions and fancies, for exact information is lacking. On one point, however, there remains no question. The record of this strange club bears out the old quotation, "Handsome is that handsome does." This organization, which in 1919 raised £6000 to teach men carpentry, blacksmithing, and other pursuits, has lately purchased a farm for the training of boys in agriculture. During the next 18 months, says a press dispatch, "the Uglies" hope to train 1000 boys.

THREW AWAY HIS STICK

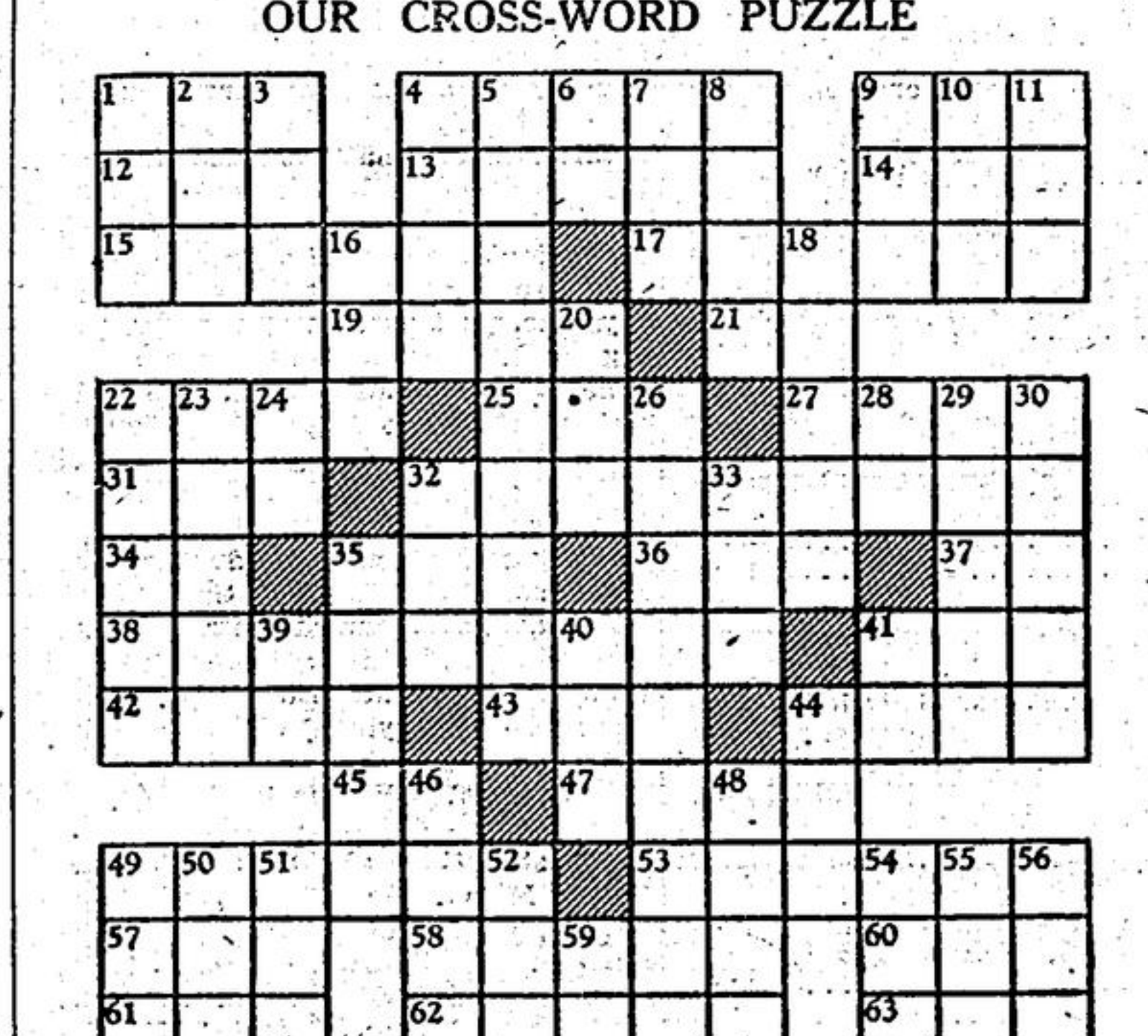
When Sciatica Yielded to Kruschen

There can be no doubt that this man has finished walking with a stick, for it is now four years since he discarded it. He writes: "For 18 months I suffered with chronic sciatica and rheumatism, and was unable to walk without the aid of a stick. But after taking Kruschen Salts for a short time, I was able to throw away the stick. It is now four years since this happened, and I have had no return of the complaint, and have not lost a day from work. I shall never be without Kruschen Salts, as they are worth their weight in gold. You can use this letter as you please, as I can honestly recommend Kruschen Salts to any sufferer."—C. F. If the eliminating organs become sluggish, they permit harmful uric acid to accumulate and deposit itself in the tissues, muscles and joints in the form of needle-pointed crystals, which, piercing the nerve sheaths, cause excruciating pains of sciatica. The six salts in Kruschen stimulate the eliminating organs to healthy, regular action. Mischievous uric acid is then given no chance to collect.

Taken Literally

A census taker, on asking a woman how old she was, received the following answer: "Do you know how old the Hill girls next door are?" "Sure." "Well, I am as old as they." The census taker wrote down, "As old as the hills."—Congregationalist.

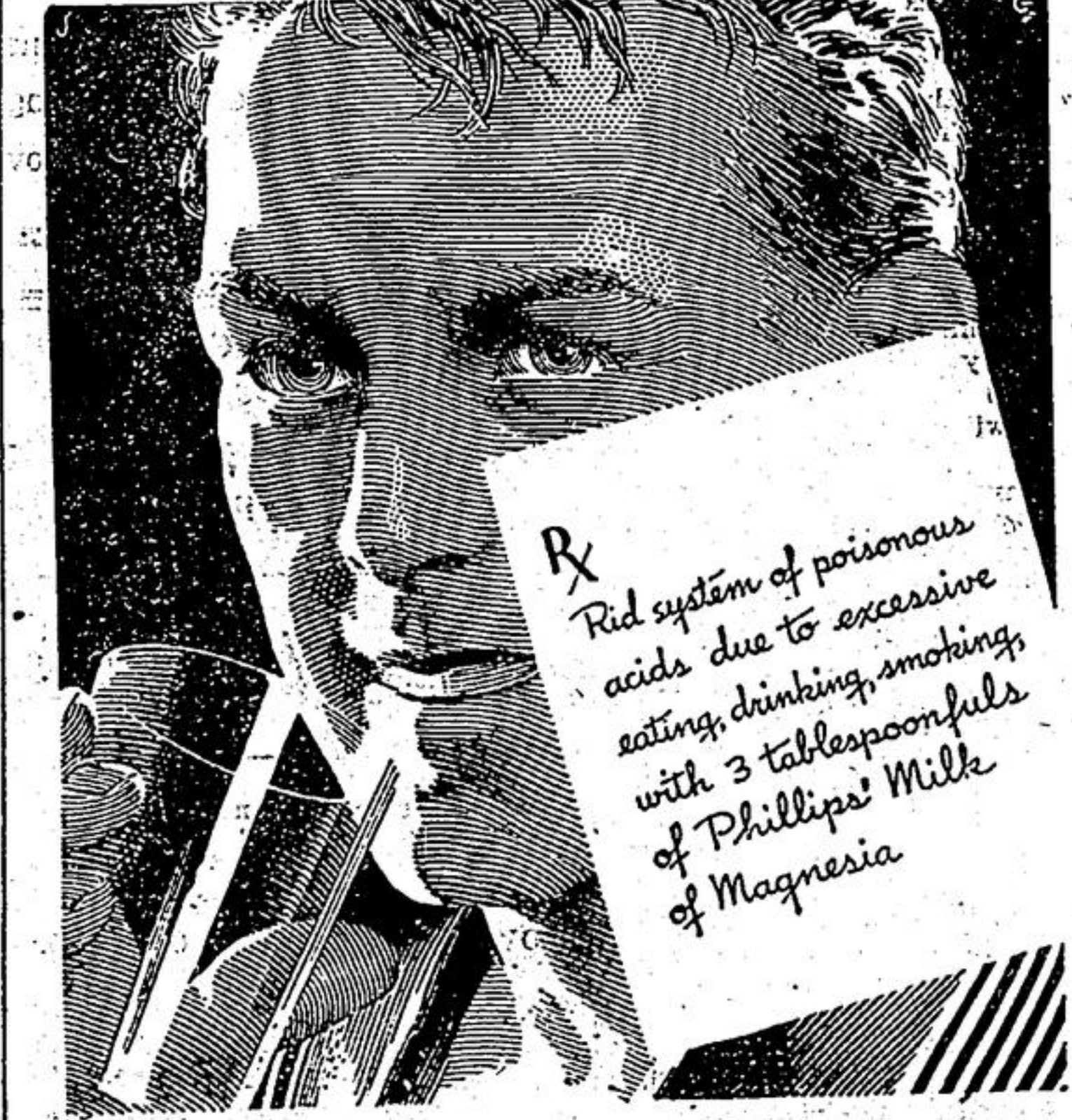
OUR CROSS-WORD PUZZLE



- Horizontal
- 1—Negative
 - 4—Urges
 - 9—Operated
 - 12—Ancestry
 - 14—Personality
 - 15—Jumped
 - 17—Stang; energy
 - 19—Astringent salt
 - 21—Italian River
 - 22—To unite with
 - 25—Wheel tooth
 - 27—Mislead
 - 31—Frequently
 - 32—Astronomer
 - 34—Whether
 - 35—Hawaiian wreath
 - 36—Grain spike
 - 37—Negative
 - 38—Southern Indians
 - 41—Drunkard
 - 42—Gallows
 - 43—Sister
 - 44—Jutting rocks

- 45—To leave
- 47—To expand
- 49—To attach
- 53—War instrument
- 57—Meadow
- 58—To sing
- 60—Affirmative
- 61—Boy
- 62—Foe
- 63—To obtain
- 1—Nothing
- 2—Mineral
- 3—Beverage
- 4—To pare
- 5—Lessening
- 6—Conjunction
- 7—To plunge
- 8—To percolate
- 9—Corded cloth
- 10—Years old
- 11—Conjunction
- 16—Dish
- 18—Arcile
- 20—Large bird
- 22—Cross timber
- 23—Bid
- 24—Pronoun
- 26—Back stage apartment
- 28—Weight (abbr.)
- 29—Title
- 30—Jogs
- 32—Japanese coin
- 33—Fuel
- 35—Yassal
- 39—Pronoun
- 40—To drag
- 41—To such extent
- 44—Two (Scottish)
- 46—Formerly
- 48—Sole
- 49—The whole
- 50—Edible seed
- 51—Cushion
- 52—Tribe of Israel
- 54—To silence
- 55—To scrutinize
- 56—To soak
- 59—Note of scale

MORNING AFTER



Rid system of poisonous acids due to excessive eating, drinking, smoking, with 3 tablespoonfuls of Phillips' Milk of Magnesia

Also in TABLET FORM: Phillips' Milk of Magnesia Tablets are now on sale at drug stores everywhere. Each tiny tablet is the equivalent of a teaspoonful of genuine Phillips' Milk of Magnesia.

“Made in Canada”