In the Automobile World

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AUTO ACCIDENTS

Mutual Realization of Responsibility Makes for Safety When Traffic Is Heavy.

Mutual responsibility makes for safety, says A. B. C. Hardy, member of the Traffic Planning and Safety Committee, N. A. C. C., and well known in the trade, in a recent The most careful driver of a motor vehicle is never danger of injuring the careless pedestrian; and the most careful pedestrian is never safe from the danger of being injured by the careless driver.

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What we are aiming at, in the work that is being done by so many organizations interested in establishing improved safety conditions, is to secure real co-operation from every one concerned in the production and operation or motor vehicles. The maker, the driver and the pedestrian are all responsible; and public safety depends very largely on how their responsibilities are assumed.

Maker's Duty.

The automobile maker owes it to simself, as well as to the public, to make his car safe to drive; this means that it must be strong, that it can be promptly stopped in emergency, and that due notice of its approach is given, day and night. Increased factors of safety, improved brakes, dependable lights and signals are the rule in automobile manufacture. It has come to be a matter of course that the modern automobile will deliver mileage in safety over a long period of time.

The driver owes it to himself to have his vehicle under control at Have your car in- all times. He must know that his brakes are working and must have more interest in them than in his over before the accelerator. Nowadays, the average driver is sane; he knows the distance in which he can stop his car at various speeds, and he keeps within the speed called for by conditions. The driver with his car under definite control keeps out of court, out of jail, out of the hospital, and out of the clutches of remorse for unavoidable accidents.

The Pedestrian.

The pedestrian owes it to himself to walk alertly; to observe traffic regulations, and have his safety in emind; to remember that there are very few accidents nowadays that occur in traffic in which the pedestrian is wholly free from blame.

Starting The Long-Idle Engine Re-Installing The Battery

THE BATTERY, which is almost always removed from a laid-up car, should be replaced just as it was taken out, so far as the positions of its positive and negative terminals are concerned, and should be securely fastened into position by the hold-downs or other means pro vided. If it be left loose it will be injured. Its terminal posts and the insides of the cable clamps should be scraped clean, the clamps attached and tightened securely and the parts then coated with vaseline All switches should be "off" when this is done and if a spark is pro duced when a clamp is touched to a terminal post, the connection should not be permanently made, as a leak in the wiring is thereby indicated.

Watching For Oil Circulation

When the engine has been gotten into action, by means of the starter, the oil pressure-gage should at once be consulted and if pres sure is not indicated within a minute, the engine should be shut down and the trouble located. If the oil pump has become air-bound, as it may have done-especially if the oil-pan was emptied at laying-up time, additional oil should be supplied from a gun into the system, through the capped or plugged orifice provided for this purpose, for instance, at the oil relief-valve or by-pass. This applies especially to pumps that are not located in the oil pan.

Oil Pressure Must Be Normal

Upon the establishment of oil pressure, unless it is of normal amount, investigation is in order, for if it is higher than it should be, considering speed, temperature and other factors, obstruction of certain oil passages to bearings may be suspected and if it is too low or fluctuating, clogging of the strainer may be indicated. If the engine has overhead valves, not automatically lubricated, they should receive a thorough hand oiling or greasing at once and if pocketed valves are used, it is well to remove the valve-compartment cover and oil everything therein with a gun, before starting the engine, as these parts may become pretty gummy after long disuse.

OBSTRUCTED RADIATOR PASSAGES

J. F. E. writes: The cooling system of my ---- car gives serious trouble from overheating, and water is freely sprayed from around the radiator filler-cap when speed reaches 25 m. p. h. This makes me suspect that circulation is impeded, but my mechanic says that tery from leaking liquid? Will a this is not the case. I have to re- generator overcharge and burn its battery if it furnishes it a current fill the system four or five times in a 150 mile trip. Please give me of 15 amperes, when the car is your opinion.

Answer: No doubt you are right as to the cause of this trouble, for by making sure there are no cracks if there were no obstruction, the in the rubber jars of the cells, by pump would not build up pressure avoidance of overfilling the cells in the top of the radiator sufficient and by keeping the terminal posts to spray out water. The presump- tightly sealed, where they pass tion is that the radiator passages through the covers. Fifteen amare clogged and we suggest that peres is a very usual charging curyou clean the radiator with sal rent for an ordinary 6 voit battery. soda solution and that, if this is but if very little current is taken not effectual, you have it treated from such a battery, this charging by a professional radiator repairer, rate may result in overcharging. With both upper and lower rubber However, if the battery liquid never connections detached and the in- rises to a temperature above 120 flow plugged, water should run out degrees Fahrenheit, there is no the outflow in a full stream, when danger of injury from such overit is supplied to the filler opening charging.

Questions of general interest to the motorist will be answered by Mr. Clough in this column, space permitting. If an immediate answer is desired, enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope, The absent-minded pedestrian, or child as early as he is able to walk

from a garden hose. Otherwise

BATTERY QUESTIONS

W. K. asks: What is the best

way in which to stop a storage bat-

Answer: Leaking can be stopped

running at 20 m. p. h.?

the passages are obstructed.

the untrained pedestrian, consti- It should be constantly continued tutes a grave element of danger. at home and at school. And training should begin with a There is a mutual responsibility -and mutual penalty. Many people suffer in every accident, not alone those immediately involved.

> Communities and organizations ing. everywhere today are spending time and thought and money in undertaking to regulate traffic so as to is very important. protect property, limb, and life But no amount of effort can result in wholesale protection unless everybody co-operates. The thoughtless man, in the driver's seat or in the highway, will always be a menace to himself and to others; constant education will make for cooperation and this, in turn, for

A CHEAP REPAIR

FOR CLUTCH SLIP On some cars which have been in service for years, trouble is sometimes experienced with the continual slipping of the clutch. This is generally due to oil leaking into the clutch housing from the crankcase, through the end bearing. The proper way to prevent this leakage

is to properly fit the pearings. However, on an old car, the owner may feel that the expense involved will not be justified. In such cases, the following simple arrangement often gives good result: A heavy felt or leather washer i placed over the breather pipe cap, so that when it is screwed down tightly it will be air-tight.

A piece of small copper tubing is then attached between the breather pipe and the intake manifold. In this manner, whenever the engine is running, a partial vacuum is created in the crankcase, which is of sufficient strength to keep the oil from running out of the bearing.

One-Fifth Laid To Auto. Practically one-fifth of all fatalities from accidents in 1923 were the result of automobile mishaps, according to the United States Department of Commerce. The total number of fatalities was 74,131, of which 14,411 were auto accidents.

Care of the Battery An occasional examination of the storage battery is essential to its continuity of performance. If the separators have ceased to function the plates will suffer, short circuit and buckle, finally destroying this costly element.

To Remove Broken Bolt. When the head of the bolt is broken off, the broken part can be removed by cutting a slot across its face with a back saw. A screwdriver is all that is necessary to remove the remaining part of the bolt.

Kerosene squirted over the distributor coils and spark plugs will keep water from causing a short circuit.

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A Top Repair. Shellac is the best substance to use in top repairs. Clean the torn parts thoroughly and then roughen slightly with sandpaper. The patch is applied by using the shellac as cement, pressing the patch down firmly.

Never stop on the road to carry on a conversation with a friend. Invite him into the car and keep mov-

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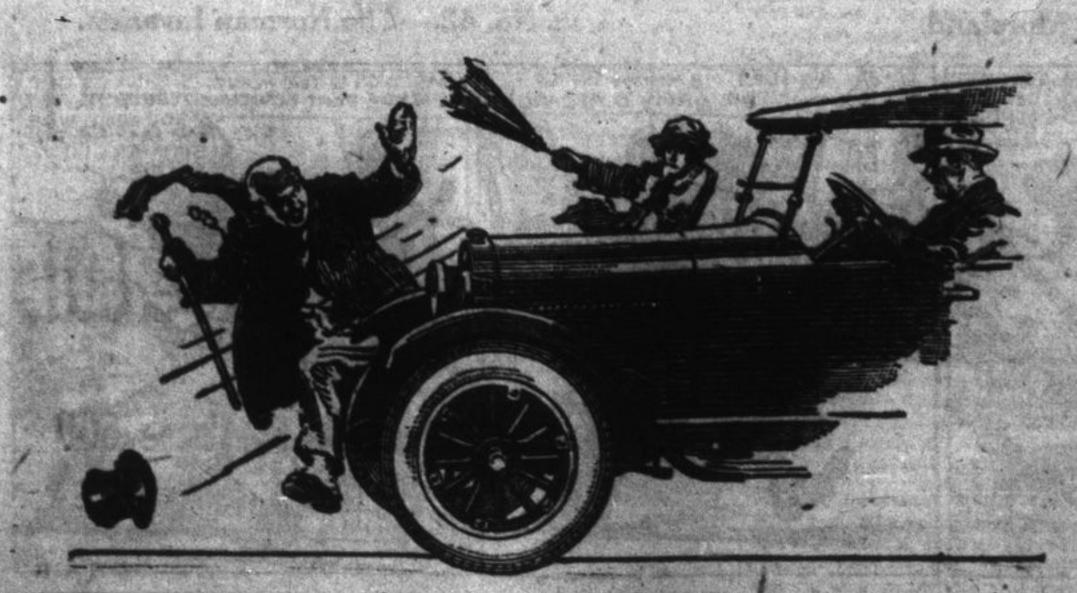
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