

USE GAS IN SPORTS

Too Frequent "Jags" From Oxygen Dangerous.

Proposition of Sir Edwin Ray Lankester, Denounced as Unsportmanlike and Unscientific—Will Shorten Life.

London.—The lay press reports that Sir Edwin Ray Lankester has inquired of the Swedish authorities, who will have charge of the coming Olympic games, will permit a Marathon competitor to carry an oxygen tank or bag and take from it an occasional whiff during that cruel and grueling twenty-six odd miles that must be run by those who would be in at the finish. The competitors, he observes, will presumably be allowed to consume refreshments while racing. "It would be extremely interesting to see whether such breathing is of material assistance to the runner, and as oxygen gas is not a drug, but as natural an article of consumption as water, there seems to be no reason why the runner should be disqualified for refreshing himself with it, as he may with soup or water."

Stimulating drugs are, of course, rightly barred from any athletic contest worthy the name. The Scientific American remarks, Oxygen is in these circumstances certainly a drug, inasmuch as it "dopes" the recipient, quite like any another drug. Pure oxygen is a powerful and most valuable stimulant for the sick who require it—patients with coma or pneumonia in extremis. But, as with all stimulants, excessive use of it is dangerous. It first excites and then depresses; frequent oxygen intoxication will prematurely exhaust the individual's vitality and will surely tend to shorten his days. Such indulgence will make the cardiac beats most pathologically rapid and powerful; the blood will flow in excessive volume and strength and the collapse will be in reciprocal proportion. The ears ring in an "oxygen jag," as if one should hang head downward over a cliff; speech is hesitating, "ideas swarm," but it is hard to seize them.

Sir Edwin's proposal is amazingly unscientific in a scientist of so great reputation and it is most unsportmanlike, especially in an Englishman, the Britisher being nothing if not a lover of fair play in sport. What folly to declare nascent oxygen as natural an article of consumption as water! Pure oxygen is far from being such a thing; it is natural only to be breathed when it is diluted with several times its volume of nitrogen.

Pure oxygen has before been used in athletics, but all that kind of thing is altogether cheap and unprofitable and it has a yellow streak. Yes records have been broken by this means. They should not stand; they do not in the minds of the sporting aristocracy. And the reason why is that they are not tests of brawn and endurance under the inexorable conditions in which human life must ordinarily be lived. An oxygen drunk might make an untrained, undeveloped, soft muscled, ordinarily short winded specimen successful for the brief span of a given contest; but for all that he would be poorer, and not the really triumphant man. All competitions should be held under natural conditions, such as must be changed and coped with in nature.

The only safe and sane way to breathe oxygen is in combination with nitrogen as it exists in the circumambient air. In the form to which, during the ages, human and all other life has become adapted. Normal living is ever "the right adjustment of internal relations to external relations."

After all, why should marathons be run, anyway, except for the glorious and sufficient purpose of announcing in the Athenian market place the victory at Marathon over the Persians? How utterly purposeless is today this terribly taxing race, which must for many a participant result in disease and in shortened existence.

CUT OFF FOOT BY WIRELESS

Gulf Operator Told How to Perform Operation by Doctor on Ship 420 Miles Away.

New Orleans, La.—How a laborer on Swan Island, a lonely wireless station in the gulf, sustained a crushed foot; how the wireless operator on the island communicated with a ship 420 miles away, related the surgeon and got him to explain the proper way to amputate, and how the operator's assistant performed the operation, is a story told by the manager of a big shipping firm. New Orleans physicians describe it as "surgery by wireless."

On Swan Island is a wireless station, one of the links in the United Fruit chain to the tropics. When a laborer hurt his foot in a tram car accident the wireless operator concluded an operation was imperative. There were no medical books at hand, and no one at the station ever had backed at a fellow being. Then the operator had an "inspiration." He called a fellow craftsman on a ship passing 420 miles below into the Caribbean sea. The situation was explained to the ship's surgeon, and detail by detail he explained just how the amputation should be handled.

After the arteries had been tied and the wound dressed the patient recovered his senses and insisted on pressing at the wireless key to express his thanks. At last accounts he was getting well.

GOLF BALL DEADLY WEAPON

New Property of Gutta Percha "Pills" Discovered by Curious Investigator in New York.

New York.—The golf ball has been added to the list of deadly weapons, and now that the season is beginning it behooves golfers throughout the country to take warning from the fate of a local golfer and to refrain from too much curiosity as to how a golf ball is made. Of course many persons who have intercepted the flight of the "gully" with various portions of their anatomy have for years considered it a deadly weapon. But in these cases it was merely a missile and not inherently dangerous.

Now, however, it has been discovered that the golf ball must also be classed as an explosive. This unexpected state of affairs was brought to light here because of the curiosity of a golfer to discover what sort of a liquid center the ball with which he had been playing contained. As the easiest manner of finding out he was proceeding to vivisect it with his pocketknife, when it suddenly exploded, the liquid center entering one of his eyes. As a result it is feared that he may lose his sight, although this will not be known until he merges from the dark room to which the accident will confine him for several weeks.

Just what the liquid center of the ball which caused it to burst consisted of no one seems to know, although the effect was that of an acid of caustic which burned the eye. Whether golfers carrying a half dozen balls through the city streets will be arrested under the concealed weapon law remains to be seen, but now that they have entered the category of explosives the game may take on a new feature of sportiness.

DISEASE IS ALMOST AT END

Every State and Territory Has Been Invaded by Infantile Paralysis.

Washington.—The wave of poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis, which has been sweeping over the North American continent for the last two years, is apparently subsiding, according to figures collected for the surgeon general by the public health and marine hospital service. Every state and territory in the Union has been visited by the disease, even Alaska, whence it crossed Behring strait to Siberia and is now travelling through Siberia.

The mortality has ranged from 3.1 per hundred cases in the District of Columbia to 13.9 per hundred cases in Vermont. During 1910 the greatest prevalence of the disease was in Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York and Pennsylvania; during 1911 the greatest prevalence was in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

The total of deaths in 1911 from poliomyelitis was 440, as against 950 in 1910; and the total of cases in 1911 was 1,931, as against 5,861, in 1910. Cancer is racing side by side with consumption as a cause of death in the state of Victoria, in Australia, so it is reported by the government statistician at Melbourne. The figures are: Deaths from consumption in 1910, 1,073; 1911, 1,103; from cancer in 1910, 1,031; 1911, 1,196.

The latest reports showed plague at Hongkong, China; at Honokaa, in Hawaii; through India; at Callao, in Peru; at Durban, in South Africa; at Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies; at Sargon, in French Indo-China; in Java; on the island of Mauritius; in Algeria, Africa; on the Azores; in Brazil; in British and German East Africa, and in Ecuador, Persia, Siam, Russia, Turkey in Asia and the Straits Settlement.

DOOMED MAN DRAWS BRIEF

Murderer Signs Appeal With Initials, Showing Number in Death House.

Trenton, N. J.—For the first time in the history of New Jersey a man convicted of murder and in the death house at the state prison, has prepared a brief in his own behalf for presentation to the court of errors and appeals in an endeavor to get a new trial.

Frank McDermitt and Chauncey H. Beasley, as counsel for Allison M. MacFarland, filed with the court an elaborate brief prepared by MacFarland, who stands convicted of poisoning his wife in Newark.

The case was carried up on a writ of error and in addition to the lawyers' brief the brief of MacFarland was filed. The man goes into the case in detail and has an explanation for every questionable phrase in the now famous "Bunny" letters. As MacFarland is an educated man, the brief was intelligently prepared. He signed it "D. H. 1861." The initials stand for "Death House," and the numbers are his prison designation.

REVERE BELL'S TONGUE OUT

It Falls From City Hall Tower, Bath, Me., and Makes Hole in Roof—No Curfew Rung.

Bath, Me.—For the first time the Paul Revere bell in city hall tower did not ring out the curfew a few nights ago. When it rang for the noon hour, as has long been the custom, its 15-pound tongue fell out and smashed a hole in the roof of the city building. The bell is the genuine Paul Revere and nearly a century ago hung in the steeple of the old North church in Bath.

HUGE TURTLE FIGHTS BATTLE

Jumping on Its Back, John Jordan, Aided by Servants, Landed the Monster.

Palm Beach, Fla.—John Jordan of Buffalo, a guest of William J. Connors, his brother-in-law, was attacked while bathing by one of the largest turtles ever seen here, and for 15 minutes was threatened by severe bodily injury, if not death by drowning. He escaped with bites on his arms and legs. A turtle has not been known before to attack a man in these waters.

Mr. Jordan entered the water alone in front of the Connors cottage and was swimming about 200 feet from shore when the turtle rose under him. It immediately struck him and he jumped on its back. The turtle swam for deep water and then dived, unseating Mr. Jordan. Coming to the surface it again struck at him viciously. Unable to swim away, Jordan figured his safety lay in clinging to the turtle's back, and using his feet as a rudder, and holding to the flippers he steered it towards shore.

Miss Alice Connors, seeing his plight from the piazza, summoned two Japanese servants, who rushed with a clothesline. Forming a noose they got it over the turtle's head after a struggle, in which both were bitten. The turtle measured five feet and a half.

PRESS SCHOOL PLANS OUT

Policy of Pulitzer Branch of Columbia University Announced by Heads.

New York.—A preliminary announcement regarding the first year's work of the new Pulitzer School of Journalism at Columbia university declares the school will be run on broad principles, with a policy neither too professional nor too academic.

The rules and requirements for admission will be liberal and no person with ability will be refused admission, whatever his preliminary school training. The school will be undergraduate in character and a student will not have to possess a college degree to take the courses. It is stated that "all applicants of promise will be allowed to matriculate."

The definite outline of the courses of instruction for next year have been prepared, and will be made public shortly. The courses are arranged so as to give a student a general and somewhat thorough knowledge of the complete field of newspaper work. Dr. Talcott Williams, director of the school, will take personal charge of several of the courses of a practical nature.

BURGLAR ATE HER POTPIE

Prisoners Also Played Piano and Took Bath; Three "Desperate" Boys.

New York.—The police of Patterson, N. J., say Albert and Perry Vreeland and William Paton, from 16 to 18 years, are "desperate" burglars. Nearly a dozen complaints are lodged against the youthful prisoners. Plunder worth more than \$1,000 has so far been recovered.

Robert McCrow, superintendent of West Side park, in the police court at Paterson identified Albert Vreeland as the youth who held him up in the park several weeks ago and forced him to a buck an dging dance.

The boy was also charged with having entered the home of James Eastwood, 91 Twenty-third avenue. He robbed it, ate the pot-pie Mrs. Eastwood had left cooking in the oven, played the piano, and took a bath during his stay in the residence.

The police say the trio entered the residence of Miss Marion D. Gall on Freshman avenue recently and stole several valuable pictures. All the boys are graduates of the reform school.

DOES AWAY WITH JURIES

Agreement Between Judge and Attorneys in Kansas Results in Extensive Saving in Costs.

Iola, Kan.—Taxpayers of this county have been spared much expense during the last year by an agreement between District Judge Oscar Foust and attorneys practicing in his court that trials by jury shall be abolished except in cases of necessity. Of the 828 civil suits in his court in the last twelve months Judge Foust has decided 614, thus almost eliminating one of the big items of court costs.

Babe's Brain in Man's Head.

Baltimore.—A portion of the worn-out brain of William Buckner, a wealthy real estate broker, was replaced by fresh tissues from the brain of a new-born babe at Johns Hopkins hospital.

Men Exchange Wives.

London.—The king's proctor rescinded the divorce of Herbert Owen and Arthur Michael when he learned that they had exchanged wives after getting their decrees.

Offer to Sell Their Baby.

New York.—Alexander Sawyer and his wife, poverty stricken and unable to provide food for themselves and their two babies, offered to sell a six-week-old baby for \$100.

Cuts Third Set of Teeth.

Boston.—The cutting through of her third set of teeth was believed to be responsible for the death of Mrs. Margaret Newman, aged eighty-five.

ARMY AUTO TRUCKS BACK

Return of Machines From the South—Cross the Ohio River at Louisville.

Louisville, Ky.—Capt. Alexander Elliott Williams, U. S. A., and his party, almost famished after an all-day run from the crossroads town of Magnolia, Ky., where for five consecutive meals they had dined on biscuit and pork, arrived in Louisville on their automobile trucks in the army efficiency test.

The party consists of Captain Williams, Capt. H. A. Hegeman, who joined them at Atlanta; W. C. Sterling of New York and four mechanics. They left Bowling Green, Ky., Saturday, hoping to reach Louisville Saturday night, but they were forced to halt at Magnolia. They made the run to Louisville during the day and crossed over the Ohio river to Jeffersonville, Ind., setting out from the quartermaster's depot there this morning for Fort Benjamin Harrison, near Indianapolis.

Captain Williams declared his experience with the three trucks on this trip has convinced him that automobile trucks will prove more satisfactory and economical in transportation of army supplies than wagons. He left Washington February 8, journeying to Louisville by way of Richmond, Raleigh, Charleston, Atlanta, Chattanooga and Nashville. He will turn east from Indianapolis.

ADDS YEARS TO HUMAN LIFE

Prof. William H. Welch Says This of the Advancement of Medical Science.

New York.—Advancement of medical science has added about twelve years to the average period of human existence in the last half century, according to a statement given out by Prof. William H. Welch in connection with the celebration of the forty-third anniversary of the Presbyterian hospital here.

"Since the first actual records were taken in New York city in the middle '60s," says Dr. Welch, "the rate of mortality has been reduced from thirty-five deaths in each thousand inhabitants to about fifteen or sixteen. This reduction in mortality is the sequence of our control of infectious diseases. We have made no such advancement, however, regarding the organic diseases of advancing years which afflict especially those who have been active in affairs and who have large responsibilities."

KITTENS ARRIVE IN THE HAY

Little Family Travels Fifteen Days From Northern Illinois to New Home.

Montclair, N. J.—Thomas Wood of Label street is the possessor, though not the owner, of a cat and five kittens that came to him in a carload of hay from a small town in northern Illinois. The Erie railroad, over which the car arrived, assures him it will put in no claim for the animals. A blue ribbon around the neck of the mother cat possibly may lead to her identification.

The bill of lading shows the car was in transit 15 days, and was not opened until it reached here, so that the cat must have lived for that time without food or water. Wood will keep the cat unless her owner can prove claim to the property. The kittens will be offered to buyers of the hay, with a brief history of their adventure. The largest kitten will go with the first sale.

BILL HAS PATHETIC STORY

"Last of \$10,000 on Wine, Women and Song" Written on Its Face.

St. Joseph, Mo.—A brand-new \$5 bill, across the face of which was written "the last of \$10,000, spent on wine, women and song," was pushed through the teller's window of a local bank the other day, with a request for small change.

"I've got to watch the corners now," was the only explanation offered by the young man who presented the bill. "It's the last of what my dad left me."

The bill under the law regarding mutilated bills, will go to the treasury for redemption.

Molasses as Dust Layer.

Washington.—The people of the United States may be riding over roads of molasses in the near future. The bureau of good roads is making experiments near here with a very cheap grade of molasses, mixed with lime water, as a dust laying cover for roads.

Has Been in Bed 58 Years.

Philadelphia.—Miss Sybilla Schnatz, paralyzed from her waist down, has just begun her fifty-ninth year in bed. Since the attack of typhoid that made her helpless she has spent 21,000 days in bed.

Dines With Chief; Is Robbed.

New York.—Dining with Police Captain Dominick Henry, in a fashionable restaurant, Edward J. McDuday was robbed of his pocketbook containing more than \$1,500.

Marshal Chokes to Death.

Efingham, Ill.—Declaring the steak was too tough to masticate, Wm. Connors, sixty-five, village marshal, tried to swallow a piece in a local restaurant and choked to death.

BABIES IN FASHION

They Are No Longer Strangers in New York Mansions.

Last Year 5,462 More Children Were Born in First City of the U. S. Than During the Preceding Twelve Months.

New York.—You, Mr. Bachelor, and you, Miss Suffragette, don't sniff and turn up your noses at the babies—heaven bless them! The time has at last arrived when babies are in fashion again among the fashionable. Just read here what Dr. W. H. Gullifoy, head of the department of records at New York's health department, has to say.

"The birth rate in New York is gradually going up. Since 1898 it has risen about 3 per cent.

"Last year there were born in New York City just 134,542 babies, an increase of 5,462 over the year before. Now, had the rate not increased since 1898, when the greater city was first inaugurated, there would have been 15,000 fewer babies born than actually were. Pretty good record for pleasure loving New York!"

And it takes only half an eye to see for yourself the meaning of Dr. Gullifoy's statistics. There are babies in bunches, here, there and everywhere, all over the big city. The east side has its share, but so has the west side and the central districts of the town, where wealth and fashion dwell in luxury.

There used to be a threadbare story about there being no babies to speak of along 5th avenue, and much was made out of the talk that the rich were not doing their duty by society or the community. All of which was largely tommyrot. The real reason was—and is—that New York's most distinguished thoroughfare—where trade has not crept in—is given over to the mansions of middle aged and elderly people whose children are all grown up.

But walk over to the eastward a bit in the side streets from 5th to 3d avenue and see the babies and the baby carriages there. You can get a mighty good idea of how fast the babies are coming to the well to do. These side streets are inhabited by the grownup sons and daughters of the rich and socially prominent. Babies grow here in profusion.

Remember, these are not the babies of apartment house people, but the children of those who live in brownstone houses—not yet in the mansions of their fathers and mothers which they stand to inherit. And the mothers of these shiny-faced infants are the young matrons of society, just as the fathers of them belong to all the best clubs in the city.

Why, the only way a clubman can get his son into the exclusive Knickerbocker club, where the initiation is \$200 and the dues \$100 a year is to "put him up" as soon as he is born, and the waiting list of the club is today filled with the names of baby boys. One proud father, who lives in a house with forty rooms, has three babies on the list just waiting till they are 21.

INDIANA HORSE A SUICIDE

Animal Drowns Itself in Swollen Stream Following a Severe Sickness.

Jeffersonville, Ind.—Suicide is what Charles Pangburn, a veterinary surgeon, pronounced it when he saw a pain maddened horse dash into the swollen current of Fourteen Mile creek here and with no appearance of a struggle sink to its death. Dr. Pangburn had just been treating the animal for a severe ailment with which it had suffered several days. He was driving away when he saw the sick horse gallop furiously toward the stream and watched it unhesitatingly plunge in and end its misery.

SAIL ON DOORS IN TORNADO

Couple at Newton, Miss., Have a Strange Experience in a High Wind.

Newton, Miss.—When a destructive tornado passed near here J. B. Trussell, a storekeeper, and his wife tried to keep the store doors closed by holding the knob and propping themselves against it. The terrific wind wrecked the building and Mr. and Mrs. Trussell went sailing on the doors several hundred feet. Mrs. Trussell landed in a ditch and was slightly injured.

Governor Spends Night in Jail.

Phoenix, Ariz.—Believing that 211 governors should have a taste of prison life, Governor Hunt spent a night in the penitentiary, did the lockstep with the prisoners and ate prison fare.

Home for Retired Horses.

London.—The women of North Wales have provided a "field of rest" at Penmaenmawr where worn out horses may spend their last days and die in comfort.

Gets Fortune; Loses Speech.

Fort William, Ont.—John Dancy, a riveter, lost his speech for an hour when he learned that he had been left an estate of \$2,500,000.

Chokes Dog to Death.

New York.—In a struggle with a dog that had bitten him in the face, arms and body, Edmund Lith, aged 67, choked the animal to death.

NEW YORK STEPLESS CARS

One Gotham Traction Company There Trying Out a New Type of Coach.

New York.—The New York City Railways company is trying out this week the first samples of a new type of street car which probably will be adopted throughout the city. The car which in appearance differs vastly from any others at present in use, is the notion of two officials of the company and is designed primarily with a view to ease and safety in boarding and alighting, the floor being only ten inches above the roadway.

Outwardly the new car resembles a torpedo, although the name the officials of the company attach to it is the "stepleless car." It is forty feet in length. The extremities are rounded and the wheels are incased, causing it apparently to slide along the tracks. The principal feature is the slight distance the passenger is required to step either in boarding or alighting from the car, as entering is like stepping from the street to the curb.

There is no front or rear platform, passengers entering and leaving through a side door. The conductor sits at one side behind a miniature desk, where he makes change and issues transfers. The doors are automatic and cannot be opened while the car is in motion. The seating capacity is fifty passengers and there is standing room for thirty more. Seats are placed as in a railway coach, except at the ends, where there is a semicircular seat, like that at the end of a launch. The wheels, though invisible, are beneath the extremities of his seat, and the axle is situated just under the floor. The car is constructed wholly of steel.

RUN ETIQUETTE LABORATORY

Japanese Educators Teach Girls How to Receive Their Guests and Make Tea.

Baltimore, Md.—Explaining the salient differences between the education of young girls in this country and in Japan, Dr. Inazo Nitobe, Japanese lecturer, delivered an address before the Western High school on "The Japanese School Girl."

Etiquette, he said, was one of the features of the curriculum in the schools of his country, and he dwelt upon the "etiquette laboratory," where the Japanese girls are taught how to make tea, the proper way in which a guest must be received and the many courteous social customs for which the people of the island nation are famed.

School attendance, Doctor Nitobe pointed out, was compulsory in Japan for children between six and thirteen years of age, but co-education did not obtain except in the primary grades. The lecturer referred to the girls who composed his audience as being as "lovely as a flower garden."

WORKERS' BEARDS LIKE STONE

Barbers in Calumet Region Urge a Sliding Scale Based on Damage to Their Tools.

Hammond, Ind.—Owing to the cohesive qualities of the cement dust, the manufacture of which is the leading industry of Calumet, workers in that region have driven the barbers to declare that common ordinary razors are futile in shaving the quarrymen.

After working in the cement and concrete works all day the laborer presents a reinforced front, the particles of stone dust having allied themselves with his hair and formed a hard surface. When they try their razors on this surface, say the barbers, they strike sparks and often burn their customers, thereby not only injuring their tools, but enraging their customer. After a shave of this sort, the barbers affirm, the razor used looks withered. Experts are endeavoring to work out a sliding scale of prices for shaves in and near Hammond that will be based largely on the amount of damage the tools suffer.

ICE CREAM ON SAUSAGE PLAN

How American Colony at Panama Gets 50 Gallons of Frozen Product an Hour.

Washington, D. C.—Members of the American colony in the Panama canal zone may fairly claim to be the world's champion ice cream eaters, according to the Canal Record. Down on the isthmus the government itself makes the ice cream, and it has been necessary to provide three new "continuous process" machines to meet the demand. These great freezers turn out the frozen delicacy in a constant stream, the raw materials being fed into one end and the completed product emerging from the other at the rate of fifty gallons an hour.

Poor, Refuses Legacy.

Las Vegas, Nev.—Although there is \$2,800 for him in the hands of the public administrator at San Francisco Edward Weeks, of this place, steadfastly refuses to go to the California metropolis and claim his money.

The money is portion of the estate left by Week's mother who died a short time ago. Weeks has lived at Caliente and Las Vegas for the past fifteen years. He is poorer than the proverbial church mouse, and subsists by the small amounts he is able to earn by doing odd jobs. At the present time he is engaged as dishwasher in a hotel.