NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

Ohio Congressman Champion Speller of Capital

WASHINGTON.—The great and those who record their greatness assembled the other night at the New Willard hotel, and casting off the cares of tariff, lobbies and land laws returned to childhood days to enroll themselves in "Professor" Houston's Class A at the old-fashioned spelling bee held by the National Press club as the feature event of that organization's annual "ladies' day."

President Wilson and his daughter, Miss Eleanor Wilson, and Secretary and Mrs. Bryan sat in the audience, which laughed and applauded as congressmen and newspaper representatives vied with each other in twisting their tongues around some of the "jaw-breaking" words, which Secretary of Agriculture Houston, the pronouncer, propounded.

Though the guests of their rivals in the "bee," the statesmen were not without their supporters in the audience. Scattered through the large room were many members of both house and senate who were not to enter the competition. There were also present wives and daughters who sat nervously watching to see how these representatives of the "common peepul" were going to acquit themselves.

Fourteen statesmen and an equal number of newspaper men faced "Professor Houston when he called his roll, but when after nearly an hour had elapsed, during which time the teacher had selected some of the most difficult specimens from the well-worn "blue-backed" speller, Representative Frank B. Willis of Ohio was the lone occupant of the stage.

Not only had the doughty representative shamed the press, but he had trailed the colors of the senate in the dust as well. His last rival was Senator Miles Poindexter of Washington, who had tripped on "hydrocephalus" by adding an o to the last syllable. "Hydrocephalus," which for the edification of the general public Mr. Webster and other authorities define as "an accumulation of serous fluid within the cranial cavity," or "water in the head," appeared to be a favorite word with "Professor" Houston and a stumbling block for his pupils. It had proved a Waterloo for Representative Thetus W. Sims of Tennessee before Senator Poindexter stumbled over it.

The statesmen only won by "two up" however, for Ira E. Bennett had upheld the spelling reputation of the press manfully, until the pronouncer sprang bdellum upon him. He paused to rack his brain and then made his best effort with "dellum," which sent him from the stage, to leave the victory between the house and senate.

Why Visitors to Capital Call on the President

IT is interesting to hear visitors to the White House relate the purposes for which they desire to see the president. With many it is a matter of idle curiosity. Some want to see if he is taller than they thought he was, whether his eyes are blue, whether he has a dimple when he smiles, and a myriad of small details that would be thought ordinarily of little consequence, and yet it is these very details that go to make up the popular impression of a public servant.

At a recent reception one solemn-visaged man, evidently a professor, was standing in line shuffling his feet. He was an exceedingly well-read gentleman, and called attention to the fact that 25 of the 27 presidents of the United States had parental ancestors in the British Isles—England having 16, Scotland two, Ireland three, and Wales one. Martin Van Buren and Theodore Roosevelt represented a Dutch ancestry, he said, and the curious fact is noted that although France has been so closely associated with the birth and history of the country, there has not been a president of French or Latin blood. "But with the influx of immigration from the south of Europe," said the professor, as he shifted to the other foot, "this condition is sure to change."

The physiognomy of the men today as compared with the portraits of men who had lived in former times presents a most interesting study. The president necessarily reflects the type of his times. The stately dignity of official position in years past, with tall collars, stuffy cravats, laces and ruffles, has passed away, and now instead of gaining personal distinction through rich attire or an appearance of official position, it is studiously avoided, in response to the popular ideas of democracy. The only opportunity accorded the American of adorning himself in gold and lace is in the precincts of the lodge room or on the governor's staff, for even the military itself is becoming most sedate and unobtrusive in military trappings.

As we waited our turn for an audience with the president, there was plenty of time for discussion on all these points, for there were some 15 prospective postmasters in the advance guard, and progress was slow. As we advanced to the bend of the line my pedagogue friend put on his extra pair of glasses to get a good profile view for his ethnological study of presidents.—National Magazine.

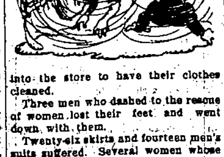
He Can Tell Them by the Color of Their Hair

OF the several hundred police chiefs who came here for the convention one of the most interseting characters is Chief Henry Curran of Nashville, Tenn.

In addition to having one of the best regulated departments in the country, Chief Curran attained fame June 4, 1908, at Detroit, Mich., when the police convention met there, by throwing a colored man out of a restauarnt when he attempted to eat at the same table. A warrant for Curran's arrest was sworn out, but before it could be served the chief grabbed a train and beat it for Tennessee. In the meantime hundreds of southern men and women contributed to a fund amounting to $10,000 to defend Curran in the courts should he be brought back for trial.

Another thing has made Chief Curran famous among his brother chiefs; his ability to tell where a negro is from by the color, kinkiness and length of the hair, and shape of the head. The other day at the Raleigh hotel the news of the chief's power leaked out among the colored waiters. One for curiosity asked the veteran: "Mister, can you tell where I'se from?" "Take off your hat, nigger," commanded Chief Curran. The waiter did so. "Why I would say that you were from Pensacola, Fla.," said the chief And the chief was right. "Great Gawd, mister, how does you do that?" the waiter inquired. The chief figured out this way: "Negroes from Pensacola and that particular section of Florida have a peculiar reddish hair."

Men Skated and Women Flopped in Spilled Syrup



THE crowd that frequents the soda fountain at the drug store at the corner of F and Fifteenth streets, just across from the Treasury building, where women in their new gowns leave the street cars to commence the parade up fashionable F street, had a grand time for two hours the other day.

A barrel of syrup dropped from the tail end of a transfer wagon, the head of the barrel came out, and 50 gallons of juice covered about 200 square feet of sidewalk.

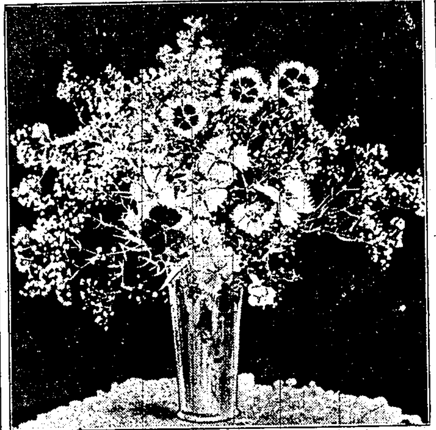
Five women wearing tight-fitting skirts went down almost in a heap when they struck the syrup. The tight skirts kept them from skating through, as the men did.

Soon an army of drug clerks were out "shooing" the people around the slick spot and escorting those who fell into the store to have their clothes cleaned.

Three men who dashed to the rescue of women lost their feet and went down with them.

Twenty-six skirts and fourteen men's suits suffered. Several women whose skirts were a little high and who wore up-to-date summer under-outfits declined the offer of drug-store help and hurried home.

FLOWERS ADAPTED FOR DAINTY BOUQUETS



A Very Popular Plant Especially for the Use in the Trimming of Bouquets.

(By LAVILLA WRIGHT MACOMBER.)

In visiting the sick, and making bouquets for decorative purposes, I was often hampered by the scarcity of flowers adapted to the making of a dainty, loosely arranged collection, until I tried raising some plants of the perennial Baby-Breath (gypsophila paniculata).

I wished to raise the plants from seeds, so procured a package and sowed the seed late in June in moist, sandy soil in the perennial border.

The seed was sown very thinly to avoid much transplanting, and it germinated quickly, the first year growing good stocky plants with fleshy roots. The soil in which they grew was sandy and well enriched with rotted manure, being kept moist throughout the hot months by a fine mulching which not only served to retain the moisture but prevented weeds from choking out the seedlings, as I had little time for weeding. Experience has taught me that such treatment is good for any strong-growing perennial plant.

The second year the Baby-Breath plants assumed a sprawling bush form, and were early white with tiny bits of bloom. Then I had no trouble in making nice bouquets, as the brilliant Gladiolus, Foxglove, Iris and Zinnias appeared more dainty combined with the airy Baby-Breath than when formed in stiff, heavy bouquets by themselves.

The flowers of the Baby-Breath are set irregularly on slender stems, the spreading stems lending just the right degree of looseness necessary to a tastefully arranged bouquet.

During the second summer the plants were not watered, but a heavy loose mulch of dead leaves and lawn clippings was kept around the roots to retain moisture from early rainfalls, and in the fall the bed was allowed to drift full of leaves, where they remained until spring, those which had become rotted being left around the roots during the summer.

Perennial plants treated this way will bloom earlier and longer than when allowed to dry up during the hot days. The most important thing to remember in caring for perennials is to mulch heavily, that the dry heat of late summer may not sap the vitality of the plants and cause them to winter kill.

My border of Baby-Breath began blooming late in May and continued through the summer, the cut flowers lasting a long time. They not only furnished unlimited quantities of blossoms for bouquets, but helped with their profusion of white to tone down the more brilliant perennials, and made a pleasingly irregular border for the taller ones behind them.

The plants are extremely hardy, having remained in unprotected borders for five years, not one having been winter killed. They have grown larger clumps each year, consequently producing more blooms.

PARCEL POST BIG THING FOR THE FARMER

The parcel post has taken the farmers by storm. They are using it in these days of bad roads to send small lots of produce to market, and, in many cases where packages are too large for the mail, the rural route carriers are paid to take them. In the picture the carrier has added an extra wagon to meet the demands upon his capacity.

DEPTH OF SOIL TO ADD NITRATES

Roots of Plant Penetrate Far Into the Ground in Search of Necessary Food.

(By H. P. FISHBURN, Assistant Chemist, Idaho Experiment Station.)

When we speak of soil and soil problems we are supposed usually to take into account about the first foot or less. For the most crops it suffices to say that alfalfa adds nitrates to the soil, since most crops feed only on about the first foot.

For the deep-rooted crops this will not hold true. From analysis of several alfalfa tracts it was found that the first foot of soil was much richer in nitrates, but to depth of six feet much poorer, on an average. In other words, alfalfa land is usually rich in nitrates in the first foot and poor in nitrates below the first foot, while land in other crops may be just the reverse.

The deep roots of the alfalfa plant penetrate far into the soil in search of food, while the nitrogen bacteria accompanying the plant are working in the top soil. In this way the nitrates are more concentrated in the top soil for the use of succeeding

COVERED YARD SAVES MANURE

In Addition It Affords Exercise and Healthful Environment for Animals.

Professor Roberts, formerly of Cornell, was a strong advocate of covered barn yards for the conservation of manure. This system is advocated by Professor Frazier of the University of Illinois. Covered barn yards are sheds, with good roofs, with or without sides, and large enough to allow the cattle to move about freely. The bottom is puddled clay or cement. The manure removed from the barn is spread about, and sufficient bedding distributed over the surface to insure cleanliness.

The animals tramp the accumulating manure into a compact mass and keep it moist by their liquid excrement. This assures an excellent manure, with but slight losses of plant food. In addition it affords exercise and a healthful environment for the animals in severe weather. The plan has been tried by many dairy men, and is generally considered satisfactory. It is said that the cows keep cleaner than when stabled, and the milking barn is more sanitary

CLOSE TO NATURE'S HEART

One of the Boons Granted to Farmers for Which the City Man Will Grope In Vain.

On evenin's when the southern breeze comes soft an' sweet an' mild, just clingin' an' caressin' like the fingers of a child, it brings a kind of longin' to a feller's heart to be at peace, an' feelin' full of love t'wards all humanity; it thaws out all the hardness an' the spite he's stored away an' charged 'gainst some that's wronged him, to be used some other day; it makes him mild an' yieldin' so he hardly could refuse a favor to most any one even if he knows he'll lose.

The birds an' beasts are matin' an' the trees an' growin' things are spread with all the soft new life an' beauty summer brings. It all acts like a tonic—lightens up a feller's heart; it brightens up old friendships an' helps new ones get a start; it helps a feller see the work of his Creator's hand; he gets a glimpse of mightiness that man can't understand—that is, if he's a farmer with a real farmer's heart—when the mild, sweet southern breezes of the early summer start.—Christian Herald.

Bees Addicted to "Dope."

Just add this one to all the queer things that have happened in the year of grace 1913 and believe it's true, because W. E. Baker, deputy auditor of the state of Ohio, says he can prove it.

The honey bees near Fostoria, which is Baker's home town, have contracted the opium habit. Like the Chinese, they get theirs from the poppy. Baker and many other residents of Fostoria grow oriental poppies.

The bees have found this out, and of late they are leaving acres of clover blossoms to hunt out the poppy beds. They work very vigorously for an hour or so and then fall to the ground apparently as stupefied as are opium smokers after "hitting the pipe."—Fostoria (Ohio) dispatch to New York Sun.

Chafing Hives.

This troublesome skin affection is difficult to diagnose at the outset. Be on the safe side, therefore, and whenever the skin is irritated use Tyree's Antiseptic Powder immediately and avoid further trouble. 25c. at druggists. Sample sent free by J. S. Tyree, Chemist, Washington, D. C.—Adv.

Doctor's Dues.

"The world owes a great deal to medical science."

"And it will be the last debt paid," declared the doctor somewhat bitterly.

Red Cross Ball Blue, all blue, best bluing value in the whole world, makes the laundress smile. Adv.

Taking No Chances.

"A man never loses anything by politeness," said the old fogy.

"I know a lot of men who never intend to," added the grouch.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c a bottle. Adv

Has to Be.

"I wonder if Diogenes could find an honest man in these days?"

"Certainly, in the poorhouse."

If you want to really know a man you must size him up when he thinks no one is watching him.

You Can't Cut Out
A BOG SPAVIN, PUFF or THOROUGHPIN, but

ABSORBINE
TRADE MARK
will clean them off permanently, and you work the horse same time. Does not blister or remove the hair. $2.00 per bottle, delivered. Will tell you more if you write. Book 4 K free. ABSORBINE, JR., the antiseptic liniment for mankind, reduces Varicose Veins, Ruptured Muscles or Ligaments, Enlarged Glands, Goitres, Wens, Cysts. Allays pain quickly. Price $1.00 and $2.00 a bottle at druggists or delivered. Manufactured only by W. F. YOUNG, P. D. F., 310 Temple St., Springfield, Mass.

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That's Why You're Tired—Out of Sorts—Have No Appetite.
CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS will put you right in a few days.
They do their duty.
Cure Constipation, Biliousness, Indigestion and Sick Headache.
SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE.
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is high and so is the price of cattle.

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of 160 acres (and another as a pre-emption) in the newer districts and produce either cattle or grain.
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