

FUTURE

The Newsweekly for Today

Vol. I No. 16

Kansas City, Missouri, April 26, 1935

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SNAPSHOTS OF THE WEEK

Two negroes, operating a ghost transfer company, got away with a couple of steel burial vaults the other day at the expense of the dealer, Mr. O. B. Dryer. The difference between these enterprising gentlemen and the equally enterprising gentleman mentioned elsewhere on this page is that the vaults had no bodies in them.

Expounding on the almost sure loss in gambling, Police Commissioner Valentine of New York, while superintending the destruction of \$100,000 worth of gambling devices, put a chip on number seven of a roulette wheel, just to show what he meant. Seven won. That's normal. Gambling pays the cops in other places, too.

Charles Settle, Texas farmer, is prophecying war because his hen laid eggs that looked like torpedoes. Back in 1912 she did the same thing and look what happened just two years later. After all, we'd just as soon believe a hen as almost any of the other experts. At least her war promotion won't net her a war contract.

The SEC (Stock Exchange Commission?) has set forth sixteen rules to be tried out in the hope that they will help to protect the man on the street in his stock market transactions. Mr. Kennedy, the chairman, is doubtful. So are we. You can't make rules against a man being a fool.

We quote from our esteemed contemporary, the "Missouri Democrat": "As a matter of fact, Mr. Pendergast did not interest himself in the matter (old age pensions) and the whisperers got no votes by this means. Friends of the Kansas City Democratic leader refuted the rumors by reminding that he has never undertaken to influence legislation, beyond bills affecting the public morals."

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NOS HABEBIT LAPETINA

Body snatchers used to be different. Their practice was to open the new graves, remove the bodies and sell them to hopeful medicos for research purposes. It remained for this present day and system to develop the scheme of absconding with the corpse before burial and making the family or friends pay to recover it. The old method was done by lantern light in the mystery of the graveyard; the new is accomplished in broad daylight with the, let us say, tacit consent of someone at the General Hospital.

Peter B. Lapetina, funeral director at 536 Campbell, holds at present the city contract to bury the pauper dead whose charge is on

the city. For this work he is paid, we understand, \$15.00 a head, the cost of a wooden box and a hole in the field. But he has also another source of revenue, according to reports authenticated by a FUTURE reporter. Here it is:

A representative of Lapetina is on constant duty at the General Hospital. When a death occurs, which is not attended by the relatives of the deceased, this operative promptly secures the body and departs with it to the undertaking establishment of his employer. Then, and not until then in a great many cases, is the family notified that the death has occurred, notified not by the hospital but by

Judge Merrill E. Otis said recently that the business of the United States District Court had declined since 1932. Is crime declining or are the criminals just getting their cases continued before municipal judges?

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FUTURE

April twenty-sixth

FOREIGN

German Threat Unites Powers

The announcements of France, Great Britain and Italy at Stresa, and the unanimity of the vote in the Council of the League of Nations censuring Germany's unilateral repudiation of the military clauses of the Versailles Treaty are clear indications that French diplomacy¹ has been more than moderately successful in determining the direction Europe is to take in its endeavor to preserve the peace. Pierre Laval, French Foreign Minister, managed to create a united front at both Stresa and Geneva, but it did not call for punitive action in the present situation and certainly covers numerous divergences existing between the nations which only the seriousness of the Hitler menace prevents from becoming open disagreement. The French, nevertheless, are hopeful of eliminating these differences of opinion and of establishing a system of alliances through mutual assistance pacts and other agreements that will insure the maximum of security for France with the complete isolation of the Reich.

France Turns to Italy

An important step toward this goal has been the cultivation of more friendly relations with Italy which since the war have not been altogether cordial. From the time of the Paris Peace Conference until Mussolini's meeting with Hitler last spring in Venice, Francophobia had been diligently encouraged by Rome, and had been given forceful expression in Italian foreign policy. Soon after the Fascist march on Rome, Italy conceived the idea of forming an Italian bloc with Austria, Hungary, and Albania as members in an attempt to counteract the growing French influence in Central Europe, and to check any future Pan-German drive toward the Alps. That such a combination could accomplish either of these ends was indeed an optimistic hope but it did give weight to the demands of the defeated powers for treaty revision when Mussolini adopted revision as a cardinal point of his foreign policy.

Rapprochement Achieved

The Nazi purge of June 30 and the assassination of Chancellor Dollfuss of Austria put an end to any thoughts of an Italo-German fascist coalition. Mussolini then decided to capitalize on the French fear of a revived Germany and negotiated the Italo-French agreements of January 7. While these agreements did not entirely liquidate all sources of friction between the two

countries such as naval parity and Italy's relations with the Little Entente, they did pave the way for the close cooperation manifested during the recent European arms crisis which would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

Italian Policy Unstable

However, notwithstanding the present accord between the two countries, it should be borne in mind that in the past Italy, unlike most of the other major powers, has not followed a clear-cut policy for any great length of time. She has always sought to stand between the contending camps and play a subtle and deft game which has often required her to shift her position from one group to another. And, so far, Mussolini has given no evidence of a desire to change this tendency.

G. L. C.

LAWS AND THE HAWG

Some time between 1931, when the Kansas City Collection Company first began feeding hogs on the city garbage, and the present moment, a new company appeared on the scene which assumed the hog feeding activities and liabilities. It is interesting to speculate why. Did they wish to avoid violating any more ordinances than necessary, just as the garbage contract was coming up for renewal?

For under the Sanitary Laws, section 937 reads as follows: "No contractor will be permitted to feed garbage to live stock, hogs, poultry, or other animals within the limits of Kansas City." It goes on to state that the garbage cannot be turned over to anyone else either, for such purpose. It so happens that the place to which the garbage is hauled is, unfortunately for the principle of the thing, just east of the state line, or within the city limits.

It's hard to get excited about it. We have become so used to having our municipal laws disregarded that to spot such a slight vagary seems petty. There are only tracks and tin cans in the immediate neighborhood, and the place is very handy to the packing houses where good pigs go when they die. We just want to point out that the city is paying a dollar a ton for disposal, when the disposal is being done in the face of the city's laws by hogs who certainly net something for their feeders. It's just another case, or a further development of the old case of the contractor cooperating with the city to get the money which the citizen is paying out.

This city stands in desperate need, for one thing, of supervised playgrounds in some of the poorer districts. Let's let the garbage collector feed his hogs and deduct the dollar a ton that he is getting for their highly subjective interest. The saving might put a proper director in Mulkey Park for the summer to keep the place fit for the children of the neighborhood. If the administration is set on selling the city's laws why not let the city benefit?

MORE ABOUT THE BIRD OF PREY

No half-organized affair is this Fraternal Order of Eagles campaign for the "Thomas J. Pendergast class." Not, at least, to judge by the shower of \$5 bills coming from jobholders, scared business men, fawners, and favor receivers.

The campaign, which was explained in the last issue of FUTURE, is designed to pep up the brotherly order here and afford the local Pendergast political machine with another vote-getting tool. The campaign affords many persons an opportunity to receive the brotherly love of the political poobahs, and at a small cost.

In seeking new members for the great order of Eagles the prospects are told to "just give me \$5 and that will make you a member." A lack of interest in future dues is absent in many

solicitations. The membership blanks are in much evidence in political circles and many of the jobholders feel they will be able to get through on just the \$5 lug in the name of Pendergast.

From the number of politicians, job holders and others who are out soliciting members for the order, it would appear that the Eagle rolls will be swelled by 2,000 or more new members who will be initiated next month in the "Thomas J. Pendergast class."

FUTURISMS

Michael Rodent

Walt Disney, in his "Mickey Mouse" comic strip, seems almost to be drawing his inspiration from political affairs in his old home town. The garbage contract is coming up now. Shall we change "Future" to "War Drum"?

What Price Police?

We have noticed recently in the papers that parties who have been robbed and the loot recovered by the police sometimes encounter difficulties in recovering the loot from the aforementioned recoverers. The latest is a bank who filed a replevin suit to recover some \$4,635. We may be wrong, but we were always under the impression the police were public servants, working for us poor taxpayers.

Private Parking

The police department, we understand, is instituting a campaign against illegal "no parking" signs. While they're on it we would like to call their attention to one in front of the home of Bob Hawkins, Pendergast lieutenant in the Quality Hill district, between 10th and 11th on Penn. Or are they only interested in independent cab stands?

A Word to the Wise

There is much police activity these days where several streets, all with "Stop" signs, come together on McGee Trafficway just South of the viaduct. It cost us \$3.50 for only slowing down to five miles an hour instead of coming to a complete stop. Better take heed.

Not a Bad Dish

Those privileged to eat in the future at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Pendergast, Jr., married this week, will gaze with envy on a set of solid silver dinner plates, suitably engraved, reputed to have cost \$1,000.00. Be careful with your knives and forks; we'd hate to see them get marred.

An analysis of the political situation published locally states the case as follows: "In this town the Democrats . . . are willing to work, in season and out, so that every vote may be garnered. Obviously this is unfair to the opposition, which is much too high-hat to stoop to intimate contact with the proletariat." Contact at two bits a head is sort of intimate, isn't it?

THE SOLONS

A Kansas City business man, interested in proposed legislation before the state legislature, went down to Jefferson City to talk it over and returned. Tossing off a triple potion of strong headache powders he shouted at his partner:

"A man gets either one or the other of two bad impressions; the members either will not or can't pass laws. The general impression I got was that the representatives of the large cities were sticking it out on the \$1 a day basis and starving 'the country boys' out. By that I mean the representatives of the larger cities are stalling off passage of laws until the members who cannot afford to stick on at the low pay go home and leave the field to the former.

"When I arrived in the state capital about dinner time I found many of the solons; some

playing marble games in the hotel lobbies and others eating dinner with lobbyists in the dining rooms. I tried to get in touch with some of the members I desired to talk with regarding the bills that I thought would go hard with my business.

"I found a couple and they were very nice. They told me they thought the bill I was especially interested in would come up for a hearing and gave me the name of the chairman of the committee. They said he was the one for me to see. I never could find him. It was just a merry-go-round.

"I learned that no revenue bills had been passed and that provisions stating just who was to pay the state expenditures had not been enacted into law. There were many lobbyists there and that may make it cheaper for some of the members to stick it out a little longer than some of the boys, usually referred to as the 'country members.' I tried to find out just who came under that classification.

"A veteran attendant at the legislature explained to me that they were the boys who came up to Jefferson City with some high ideals about statesmanship and ran into the crowd that 'cracks the whip.' I was told that many of the committee chairmen were just figureheads; that back of them was some member who could tell you just what had happened or would happen.

Follow to page eight

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STANDING BY THE PRESIDENT

Once more the new senator from Missouri "stands by the president" —by voting for an inflationary soldiers' pension bill which the president has opposed from the beginning. The bill has tremendous possibilities for harm and little to recommend its passage except the veterans' votes. According to the American Veterans' Association, "It is contrary to the dictates of justice and common sense to pay \$2,- 000,000,000 in cash from 10 to 20 years before it is due, to 3 per cent of the population, many of whom don't need it, when 22,375,000 citizens are on Government relief and when the Federal Budget is badly out of balance."

So far as major legislation is concerned, Truman is batting almost 100 per cent against the "platform" on which he was elected. Remember "Vote for Truman and Stand By the President!"

OBITUARY

The estimate of the amount to be saved by the pseudo-permanent registration bill still

faltering in the legislature is dwindling. Originally the estimate was \$100,000. Now Senator Joffe estimates \$50,000. The saving is going down almost one-tenth as quickly as our hopes for a decent bill which would accomplish what a permanent registration bill is supposed to accomplish. And did you note that the St. Joe bill passed without debate?

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I SCREAM FOLLOW-UP

Last week we promised you a follow-up on the story relating to the new ice-cream company here. We are very sorry to report that we are completely stymied on this matter. The rumor is that the company arranges the same set-up in every city it invades, and gets lots of publicity, sympathy, et cetera; then upsets retail druggists by dotting the town with "double-dip" ice-cream cone spots.

Full of sweetness and light and an earnest desire to present the druggists' position fairly, we called on the executive secretary of the Retail Druggists' Association. He was very silent on that subject. Several other possible sources of information turned out to be dry wells. No doubt Danny the Demon Reporter would still be chasing down clues, but we figured that after all the druggists were the ones to kick—and that if their spokesman didn't want to present his case—O. K.

LIBERTY

The man in the gray suit moved back into the rear of the street car; onto the rear entrance platform. He squared away his shoulders and glared defiantly at other passengers there. He clamped a cold cigar between his teeth.

Out of his vest pocket came a packet of safety matches. He glowered at the "No Smoking" sign and puffed. Faintly came traces of smoke. Women sniffed and looked his way. He glared

back. He blew more smoke; not much but a little. It went on for two blocks. Then he stepped on the door platform and left the car with his head thrown back and a look of triumph in his eyes.

"That's his way of satisfying his vanity," sneered an observer. "I know that guy. He has a small business and votes the Pendergast ticket every election. Told me he did it because he was afraid not to."

Boys, it's terrible! That fellow Harry Hopkins is to have charge of the new job-creating relief agency and they say he never asks an applicant a thing about his political pals.

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SCHOOLS

AND

TAXES

Thirty places down the list of states in the per capita expenditure for school children stands Missouri, with an average of \$73.91 for each child. At the top of the list is New York with an expenditure of \$152.85, and at the bottom is Arkansas with \$31.70 per child. The average salary in Kansas City for the teachers is \$660 a year, while in the country they receive about \$430. In 1928 the teaching staff was 2,271, while at present it is 2,000. Against these figures place the 37[^] million dollars of delinquent taxes in Missouri, 17 million of which were for the schools.

These figures were brought forward by a committee of the University Woman's Club as a result of prolonged study on their part of the school situation. One of the main deductions made from these figures is that the property tax is not the best solution of the school fund problem. In the first place it puts the burden on the shoulders of twenty per cent of the population, as eighty per cent own no property; and in the second place, collection in times like these becomes extremely difficult. So true is this that federal aid is needed to pay the teachers, in some districts, the small salaries due them.

It was felt highly needful to keep the schools open to just as many students as possible, especially in view of the bleak prospects before many of the students when they stop school and start out on their own. In this connection federal aid is being given to some hundred thousand students throughout the country to enable them to go on from high school into colleges and universities. The institutions cooperate with the government, with a result that the fifteen dollars a month which the government pays on the average each student in return for some sort of work is enough to take him through. Feeling that it is better for the student to

work his way than to receive a dole the schools find jobs, such as waiting table, gardening, or library work, to enable the student to get the federal help.

In Missouri 2,665 students in 53 different schools are receiving such help, and of these, 210 are in Kansas City, at Junior College, North- East Junior College, Teachers College, and the University of Kansas City, with a total federal expenditure of \$3,150 a month.

A serious problem facing those responsible for the schools is whether the courses still designated by some as “fads” should be dropped for the sake of economy. These courses include art, music, home making, and physical education. Experts state that should these courses be dropped from the school systems education would slide back twenty years. And yet there is the economy motive. Kindergartens present another expensive item, and yet their loss from the schools would work serious hardship. It seems to be a case needing action.

THE BODY

Overheard on the street, three men in conversation. First man: “Oh, they took him away again.” “Which,” added number two, “was rather nasty.” “Not only nasty,” said number one, “but rough.” “And not only rough,” added number three thoughtfull, “but extremely inconvenient for him.” Has anyone found a body?

SO AS NOT TO FORGET THE FORGOTTEN

Costs about \$50 to open up a policy game. All that is needed are paper, tubes or a wheel for the drawing, and a tin can if the drawing is not by wheel.

Paddling in Kansas City’s political waters are some 2,000 to 2,500 women and men—white and black—who eke out an exiguous existence wheedling nickles and dimes out of suckers, almost exclusively among the poor, for the so-called Amalgamated association.

Amalgamated association is a group of riff raff, scum and trash of the local gambling gentry operating policy games. The credulous, who believe in dreams, rabbit feet, witches, voodoo, itching noses, white horses and scores of other agencies of necromancy are the victims.

Up from this slough boils weekly about \$100,000 into the pockets of the policy game syndicate, a political sideline.

The policy game gets the dimes where the dice and card games and the race betting salons pluck the dollars. It was devised so that the great institution of crooked gambling would not overlook the very poor.

Chances to win are about 3,000 to 1 via the policy game. Chances of the operators to lose is nil.

The 2,000 to 2,500 sellers of policy game tickets comb the poor sections of the city several times a day. The policy player picks series of three numbers ranging from 1 to 100 on most wheels. He wagers a nickle, dime, and very rarely as much as 25 cents, on the three numbers. Later the sellers gather at the policy “wheel.” There is held the drawing. The numbers from 1 to 100 are withdrawn, a dozen or more of them. If the player’s three numbers appear he wins. Usually he is promised a return of about \$9 for each nickle he plays, if his three numbers show up in the drawing.

The salesmen for the policy games have regular beats which they cover two and three times a day for drawings. The Negro section is a big contributor tc1 this racket. For a nickle or dime they have visions of a blessing from the occult and sudden riches. Their ships never come in but their visions never die.

Laborers, waiters, clerks, housewives in the poorer sections, maids and cooks are among

the most regular victims of the policy game racket. It originally sprung from the superstitions of Negroes. They love to flirt with Lady Luck. The game was invented to take advantage of that passion. For many years it existed only among Negroes and now in Kansas City most of the policy game headquarters are located in the Negro sections.

Salesmen for the games sell dream books to the players. Certain dreams mean the dreamer should select a certain number combination to play that day. The dream books give the numbers for every kind of dream.

Up to April 5 the salesmen for the policy games got 30 per cent of DRY HAIR Unkempt and Untidy—never satisfactory now easily corrected with LUCKY TIGER A scientifically processed vegetable oil to meet the need of well groomed adults and children — marvelous to combat ravages to hair of modern outdoor life. At Druggists and Barbers. Generous Sample Upon Request LUCKY TIGER MWG. CO. Kansas City, Mo.

the money they took in. Just before that date, however, the game operators got together and formed Amalgamated association. The first act of the new association was to announce the 30 per cent commission would be cut to 25 per cent. Some policy ticket peddlers went on a strike but others took their places or else went back to work for another game.

Fearing disgruntled, commission-cut policy game peddlers might become obstreperous, policemen were stationed at drawings to protect the political gamekeepers. "Not so good," was the attitude of the policemen, who were working on half pay themselves.

The policy games are very valuable to the political machine here. The 2,000 to 2,500 salesmen and the others in the racket must be machine workers. They meet thousands of poor people upon whom they use their political persuasions. They tell the game players they must vote right or their policy games will be ended. Policy games have flourished under all administrations with varying degrees of political participation. Some have ignored the racket; some have made feeble attempts to clean up this cheapest of all crooked gambling games.

It is impossible to obtain accurate figures on policy game operations here, but a civic investigating agency was informed by one of the biggest sellers of policy numbers that:

Of the 2,500 peddlers at least 800 are on the federal relief rolls.

They get 25 per cent of the approximately \$100,000 taken in weekly.

Most of the syndicates have three number drawings daily and some on Sundays.

Firearms are kept in drawing places; in some places machine guns.

Should a game lose too much for its pleasure one day, it would "go broke" and open up under another name.

Games are located in the Negro sections and the North End.

There are 92 different games operated by the syndicate.

The bureau also has a list of the operators of the various games. Ingenious are operators of the games in selecting names for their games to arouse the superstitions of the players.

When a player desires to place a bet he writes three numbers on a piece of paper. The agent gives the player a carbon and he keeps the original. After the drawing he returns with the winning numbers printed on a slip of paper. Usually one or two of the three numbers selected are on the printed paper but rarely all three. In the hope they will "hit," the players, many of them who have to deny themselves food to get a nickle or dime, resort to many schemes to keep on contributing to this gammoning. It provides a vote getting army for the machine that

protects it in and out of season.

Looking over the long list of radicals listed by the suburban lady who wrote "The Red Network," we fail, with a lift of the brow, to find the names of Andy Mellon and Nicholas Murray Butler.

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SOME ANIMALS ARE FASTIDIOUS

TWELVE PAGES

From all indications it would appear that FUTURE is shortly to be crowded out of its present size, eight pages, to twelve pages.

The circulation increase has of course attracted much more advertising, and the fine cooperation of the readers of FUTURE in patronizing the advertisers has further stimulated an interest on the part of merchants to display their goods through this medium.

FUTURE is just sixteen issues old and we believe that the change to the twelve-page size will occur within the next few issues. The subscription price, to receive FUTURE for the period of one year is \$1.00. Naturally, the year's subscription will have to cost somewhat more in the larger size. This of course does not affect those who have subscribed, and they will continue to receive their first fifty-two issues regardless of the size of this newsweekly.

POLITICAL IMMORTALS

It is an interesting proof of the incurable idealism that is in mankind, that spoils-politicians are forgotten as soon as they are out of power and that political leaders who seek to give unselfish service are remembered long after they are dead.

Who remembers Boss Tweed, Boss Murphy, Boss Croker or the last head man of Tammany Hall, or what they did? Nobody outside the ranks of the mercenaries who followed them.

Who has forgotten George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson or Abraham Lincoln? Nobody who ever learned anything of their efforts to serve their countrymen, and bring about the kind of government they believed would mean the greatest good to the largest number of people.

It is not because Washington, Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln were presidents of the United States or lived in great and perilous times that they are remembered. It is because of what they did in the times in which they lived. It is not even that we indorse all the things they did. Jefferson's action in declaring an embargo on shipping and "Andy" Jackson's row with the United States Bank were bitterly controversial actions, the wisdom of which still may be doubted. But the honesty of neither leader may be doubted, nor his courage.

Grover Cleveland lived in an ordinary enough period of American history, but his action in fighting for civil service reform, unpopular to the last degree with the job hunters of his party, marked him as one of the great ones in the procession of our presidents.

The parallel carries through into lower ranks. Few people remember anything about "Boss" Cox of Ohio, but Newton D. Baker, the Cleveland amateur in politics, has grown in stature, though it has been years since he has held a public office.

Those men who have gone into politics determined to put something into the public service

rather than to take something out are remembered gratefully and respectfully, while the practical and canny boys are not remembered at all once they have played out their greedy, unimportant little roles.

Sometimes it takes a bit of hustling and shoving, and arousing of a sleepy audience, to speed the departure of these minor characters from the political stage. But where vegetables are deserved, vegetables generally fall. Any ham actor can tell you that.

FUSIONISTS

FIRST

YEAR

"I'll show you," says Frank Backstrom, Fusion councilman elected one year ago, "a long list of the measures we have stood for and opposed. We have made our speeches in the council for these measures, and cast our votes for the people of Kansas City. But that's as far as it goes. The gentlemen of the opposition come from their meeting in the Kansas City club with their decisions made, and outvote us consistently."

"Once," says Dick Adams, second Fusion councilman, "Mr. Eviston voted with us and another time Mr. Shoemaker endangered his Democratic standing in the same way, but on any major piece of legislation the count is seven to two. The councilmen are good enough fellows personally, but they never forget what put them where they are. We keep hammering away, but I don't think there will be any appreciable change in the conduct of the city's affairs while we are outnumbered on the Council."

A year ago the worldly wise warned Kansas Citians not to expect too many miracles from Dick S. Adams and Frank H. Backstrom. It was said, with indisputable truth, that, anxious as they might be to carry out the wishes of their electors, two votes would mean little in a council of nine. The last year's experience has proved the contention.

Neither Mr. Adams nor Mr. Backstrom belongs to the hair-tearing school of oratory. The things they bring up are often issues loaded with dynamite. But the eloquence of the people's representatives is hardly on a par with the eloquence of dollars,

Backstrom thinks that McElroy and the council have done a neat job of blindfolding and hog-tying the public on financial matters.

"I refer to our country bookkeeping," he says. "The charter provides in Section 88 that the city's

Follow to page five

THE PUBLIC HEALTH

"The health of the people is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and all their power as a state depend. ... It should be the first duty of a statesman."—Disraeli.

A Compliment

"The most encouraging thing that has happened with regard to public health in this city in a number of years," said Dr. Walter Clark of New York City, who with Dr. Exner, recently conducted a health survey of Kansas City, in speaking of the appointment of Dr. Schorer as Director of Health.

Voluntary Versus Compulsory Sickness Insurance

In a recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association appeared a significant article upon the Influence of Sickness Insurance on Diphtheria Morbidity and Mortality. It would be an excellent report for the President's advisory committee to read if perchance its members

are wavering in the matter of what constitutes the best type of medical service for the American citizen.

It is pointed out that diphtheria death rates vary directly with the extent to which the known and tested methods of prevention and treatment are made available to the general population. Data based upon reported diphtheria cases of a given medical service. Data based upon reported diphtheria cases of a number of the principal countries were assembled by the Health Section of the League of Nations over a 10-year period (1923-1933).

With this study as a basis it was obvious that the United States and Canada, unencumbered by insurance of the type broadly spoken of as STATE MEDICINE, or Compulsory Health Insurance, were the only major nations in which there seems to be a possibility of complete victory over the disease.

Germany after 50 years of State Medicine had nearly two and one-half times as many cases of diphtheria in 1933 as in 1923. England, Scotland and Wales had a steady increase in the number of cases and Czechoslovakia had a gradual increase from 3,159 reported cases in 1923 to 29,824 in 1933. Contrast this with a decline in the United States from 146,575 cases in 1923 to 48,613 in 1933! There were 11 large cities in the United States in which not a single death from diphtheria occurred in 1933! How glad we would be to be able to name Kansas City as one of these 11 cities.

The conclusion seems warranted that the very classes for which compulsory insurance is being proposed by some of the President's advisors, are now receiving under our traditional system of private practice, medical care far superior to that supplied to the same classes under State Medicine.

Have your children immunized to diphtheria now if you have not already done so. Campaign ends May 1.

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Nineteen Thirty-five

April twenty-sixth

FUTURE

5

FINANCE

Recent strength and increased activity in the stock market is seen as a direct result of the press of idle funds seeking investment. Several other times during the last few years there have been periods of sustained strength and activity but on the former occasions the recoveries

were built on different foundations. Then the basis was speculation on business recovery or on the prospect of inflation.

Now the motive is the desire for income. There is a great abundance of idle money and an equally great dearth of attractive investment opportunities as has been reflected in the drop in call money rates to the lowest level in history and reduced interest rates on new financing operations.

This development naturally has given the market a selective appearance. Buying has been centered in the so-called investment or "blue chip" issues. The favored issues have been the higher priced dividend payers among the common stocks.

Of course, there has been some speculative buying in the sense that stocks purchased were not paying attractive returns, and speculation will increase if the investment buying movement continues. Undoubtedly, the demand will continue as long as business holds its own, and the complexion of business news has been pretty favorable.

Rising stock prices invariably have a beneficial effect on business sentiment and if speculative buying supplements the current investment buying, confidence is sure to be revived where it is now lacking. All this could be destroyed, however, through excessive zeal from Washington, from which both the stock market and business have suffered too much, it is pointed out.

Currency

The federal reserve board has announced that the retirement of national bank notes ordered by the treasury "will not result in any contraction in the amount of currency in circulation. Federal reserve notes will be issued in place of the retired bank notes."

This will leave in active circulation only three types of paper currency—federal reserve notes, silver certificates and United States notes. Types of currency that are being retired as rapidly as they return from circulation are gold certificates, treasury notes of 1890 and federal reserve bank notes, to which there have now been added national bank notes.

The treasury dipped into its profit on dollar devaluation to call 675 million dollars of bonds on which national bank note circulation was based.

The U. S. Debt

For a change Uncle Sam is paying out cash from the till on balance instead of resorting to the market for new funds, but it may not last long. The daily treasury statements have been showing a decline in the national debt—a rare sight in recent years.

Tax collections in March brought 166 million dollars more into the treasury's cashbox than a year ago. With the recent lull in the federal spending pace, the treasury has been able to rely less on the money market and return some of its borrowings. The 4,880-million-dollar works relief program will bring it back in the money market with a bang, however, when these funds start pouring out.

Through repayment of unconvert-

MAY WE PRESENT

ALBERT N. DOERSCHUK

On the southwest corner of Westport and Pennsylvania Avenues, there is a small drug store, a unique drug store owned and operated by a man who is a druggist, a pharmacist in the real sense of the word.

The store is unique first, because it smells like a drug store, aromatic and medical, not like a

restaurant or a perfume shop. It is unique, because the fixtures in it are thirty-five years old and do not gleam with chromium. There is no soda fountain. On the walls are old guns, Springfield, salvaged from the battle of Westport; sections of authentic prairie schooners of basswood with hickory stays put together with hand-made nails. A big tumbleweed from West Texas hangs above a helmet from Chateau Thierry. On the counters stand mortars and pestles—old and valuable ones—made of mahogany, brass, iron or porcelain, also, a pair of display bottles that were in use before the Civil War. Above the cigar counter dangles a bunch of rusty keys; keys that once unlocked the Westport City Hall. Near to them is a pair of rusty manacles designed for Jesse James, who used to ride his gray horse into Westport, hitch it across the street from this drug store and saunter undisturbed into the Harris Hotel. In the back of the store there is the prescription counter, crowded with bottles of herbs, powders, distillates, the whole range of pharmacopoeia.

And usually at the prescription counter you will find Albert N. Doerschuk, the owner of this vastly interesting store. Forty-five years ago Mr. Doerschuk came to Kansas City from Ohio. He worked in his uncle's drug store until he passed the Missouri State Board of Pharmacy's examination with a perfect average of one hundred per cent. While accomplishing this feat, young Doerschuk found time to register his lively interest in the world that lay outside the confines of the prescription counter. Last week in the Forty Years Ago column of The Star appeared this item:

"Albert N. Doerschuk, druggist, has a brief analysis of actors and acting in The Star, mostly about Henry Irving and, incidentally, M. Twaine, that French supercritic. This bright young apothecary shows some knowledge of the stage."

Of his own, in 1899, he went to Westport, the year it became a part of Kansas City, and bought the drug store in the Harris Hotel, then located on the northeast corner of Westport Avenue and Pennsylvania. His business flourished, for the hotel was a busy center of commercial and tourist life in those days. He made delivery on horseback to the farms lying to the north between Kansas City and Westport and his interest in the colorful history of that locality grew year by year, becoming a hobby with him in which he has never lost interest.

The compounding of drugs, the scrupulously careful preparation of prescriptions is the outstanding factor of Doerschuk's long career as a druggist. Once, while in Paris, Col. William R. Nelson, founder and owner of the Kansas City Star, noticed that the supply of medicine he took daily was running low. He cabled to Doerschuk to refill the prescription. Col. Nelson was aware that the medicine came from the nearby city of Darmstadt, Germany, and was easily available, but he preferred having the Kansas City druggist prepare it for him. His cabled order was a tribute to Doerschuk as a pharmacist.

Endowed with a lively, active mind, Mr. Doerschuk continues to write significant articles for the various pharmaceutical papers. He constantly adds to his fund of historical knowledge, particularly of those events that took place in the early days of Missouri and Ohio. He is an opinionated man and an independent one. We salute him as one who has always brought dignity to his profession, as a historian, and as one of our town's original thinkers.

POEMS TO F. D. R.

We have never thought of amateur poets as national menaces but, according to reports, that's what they are becoming under the present administration. It seems that F. D. inspires poems like nothing on earth. Practically everybody— Republicans, Democrats, Communists and

D. A. R.'s—runs up a poem about him and sends it to him. Mrs. A. Ross Hill tells about a quiet ride she had in St. Louis with Mrs. F. D. in the car of a prominent St. Louis banker. All went well until the ride was over. Then the banker, with no hesitancy at all, presented Mrs. Roosevelt with a little tribute, a poem he had written about the President. They all had to stand around while she read it aloud. It wasn't much good.

EXCEPT HAIRCUT

We've forgotten what Keats wrote when he saw the Elgin marbles for the first time; something pretty impressive about Grecian grandeur mingling with the rude wasting of old time. Anyhow, we wish Keats or somebody would describe how we felt when we saw those little Greek Boxers at the Nelson Galleries. They are so vigorous, so handsome, so darn alive, we can't help being baffled by the fact that they were made of terra cotta some twenty-one hundred years ago. Why, the one without a bear skin on him even looks like Gene Tunney, except for the haircut.

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Fusionists' First Year

Prom page four

funds shall not be transferred from one department or account to another without the express approval of the council.

"Yet, last April 23, in direct violation of the Charter, the council, by a vote of 7 to 2, passed an appropriation ordinance handing over to Judge McElroy complete authority to execute these transfers of funds. The council handed over its own

ed Liberty bonds and treasury bills the federal debt has dropped about 150 million dollars in the last week. At 28,750 million dollars, the national debt now shows an increase of less than 300 million dollars since the turn of the year.

The national debt now is 2,600 million larger than a year ago, with only two months until the end of the fiscal year. In the fiscal year ended last June, the net interest-bearing debt increased nearly 4,225 million dollars. But what will happen next year? B. O. B.

legislative power to McElroy. Mr. Adams and I are now deprived of any check on his bookkeeping. Our whole system of budgetary control is nullified."

This silencing of the men supposed to have some check on the daily doings of the city departments is typical of the situation that confronts Adams and Backstrom. They can plan, suggest, oppose. They can speak politely or sharply, and sit down. Their votes mean nothing.

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Nineteen Thirty-five

6

FUTURE

April twenty-sixth

MANNERS

MODES

New York, April 30, 1935

Walking down the avenue these clear spring days has resulted not only in a great deal of pedal energy but also in a lot of pedal chic. Altman's collection of Tru- poise shoes caters to this necessity . . . with a perforated chamois pump tipped in brown . . . An oxford in crash linen . . . and another in navy gaberdine that laces up the side. . . . Bonwit Teller's Palter-Deliso models are smart, too. . . . The latest is square toed . . . but there are lots more conservative numbers that are grand . . . particularly a black kid pump with a patent leather heel and toe and three interwoven straps at the throat. . . . Bergdorf Goodman is all agog about linen town shoes . . . Ro- dier made the material in navy, russet, green and beige . . . and the matching throat line is accented with eyelets. . . . But Best's claim low-heeled sandals in alligator or crocodile are the thing for street. . . . So the fight is on. . . . And meanwhile the new low in evening shoes is to be found at Sak's Fifth Avenue. . . . They're gold or silver kid affairs with no heels at all ... to go with all this new Hinduism. . . . Rita.

With all the ballyhoo everywhere about Easter bonnets and Easter suits and Easter flowers, the only item in a woman's shopping vocabulary that seems to have been peculiarly neglected this season is the home. And that may mean, of course, that women are probably not as interested as they used to be in bringing Easter cheer to their recently bescrubbed and bedusted houses (remember the Easter Bunnies and yellow chicks of your childhood on the dining room table?), but it probably really just means that no one's bothered so far to point out

some of the market's newest bric-a-brackish fascinations.

Lamps come in this category, for instance, and there is certainly nothing better for your living room's spring fever than one of these. (Just the shade will do if your lamp department is already overstocked!) Anyhow, the new lamps are attractive, a great many with pottery bases, like a Chinesey white one at Lucy Drage's, and a great many with metal ones like the white painted "anchor" one at Keith's (nautical subjects, by the way, have hit lampdom with a bang, so watch out for bases in all sorts of curiously marine shapes). Chromium continues, of course, in popularity, particularly where the modern is the thing and its brilliance is notably charming when combined with crystal as in Margaret Ostertag's frankly "dressing table" pair where a shaft of crystal meets the chromium base in a cluster of crystal flowers or in Hall's more tailored affair of blue and white mirrored cubes on a chromium shaft. And if all that's too feminine, there is lots of brass and brass-colored tole about that fairly reeks masculine simplicity—with particular honorable mention to the practical but interesting item illustrated here from Margaret Oster-tag. It's in tole (which can subdue the brassy color to a less glaring tone of the original) and its strength, based on the old Gothic idea of grouping colonettes, is at the same time its greatest charm!

LONE AND LORN

By KATIE

Mrs. Gummidge, in spite of the contrarywiseness of the world, never knew the real depths of lone- lornity. She had four to cook for, anyway. If she wanted to have a nice roast of beef, cooked rare with onions and potatoes, she didn't face the prospect of eating it for the ensuing month. If she had lived alone in a kitchenette apartment she would have been reduced to eating nothing but kippers, as the only small item of English diet I can think of at the moment.

Are you a young business woman, who still likes to have your dinner at home? And is your home a room—or two rooms—with a kitchen the size of a thimble? Do you know, dietetically, what you should be eating, and still wonder how in the world you can fix anything except a chop that won't last you for the rest of the week? This problem has been raised by just such a lady, who never cared much for chops anyway.

The real question to raise is whether you are willing to take a little time off once a week, say on Saturday or Sunday, or some one evening a week, and fix things ahead, or whether you want something you can prepare from the beginning after you get home from the office. In the former case you can fix a lot of things that have to be prepared carefully, but once made can be kept in the ice box and warmed up as wanted. In the latter case you'll have to spend more as the cheaper cuts of meat need longer cooking as a rule to make them palatable. If you have KITCHEN

the price you can broil yourself a bit of beef tenderloin in a very few minutes, but if your pocket- book spells chuck, you'll have to take time for it.

An exception to this rule is the doughty hamburger. If you get it from a dealer you can trust, as someone said, to make his hamburger and not accumulate it, you can do a lot of interesting things with it, and produce very neat solo dinners that are inexpensive and likewise good. While we're on the subject, let's see what's where.

The first essential is to stop looking at your neat little roll of hamburger as an indivisible unit. The moment you take it apart you can begin to experiment. Split it from side to side, and slip in a slice of onion, previously cooked through in butter, then put the thing together again

and broil it like that. Vary this with tomato, green pepper, or a dressing made of bread crumbs seasoned with salt, pepper, onion, and a pinch of sage. Around any of these wrap a slice of bacon and skewer it in place with a tooth pick. Then cook it. If you pan broil it, make yourself a little pan gravy after the steak is done—it's a steak now, not just a hamburger—to pour over the top and you'll have something very nice. With it I'd suggest a salad of* lettuce, sliced tomatoes, or what have you, and a hot biscuit. You can make just one biscuit if you are firm about it, but if you should over-estimate the left-over will be delicious toasted for breakfast.

Lamp Shades

Lamp shades are not to be neglected either, of course, but they depend so definitely in character upon the accompanying base and the accompanying room that they almost defy qualification. However, there is a parchment pair at Town and Country that carries the material well over the bulb to straighten the downward path of light and has a simple Greek border as its only ornament, and several clair de Lune ones at Keith's that should be noted. The latter have Rajah ones, too, trimmed in colored cotton cord and braid that look so fresh and clean and cool they'll make you forget forever (or at least until next year) the horrors of your latest house-cleaning.

And for the Dining Room

But all that about lamps and nothing about new accessories for the dining room is leaving unsaid a great deal of household chic—which will certainly never do when there are so many interesting variations in pottery and tole to be discussed! The Lighton Studio is just one of the places where pottery presents a poetic array of color in a number of very prosaic shapes; but their supply is probably more up to the minute and more extensive in this field than most of the others. Just imagine "peach-bloom" square desserts and brown and white onion soups and glorious yellow or green tumblers (so graceful they may some day inspire a madly modern Keats to a new version of the old Grecian urn)—and think of all they could do for the linens your eyes refuse to feast on any longer. Then, if there is still a tug at your purse for even more elegance, note the same Studio's suggestions for building architectural floral and candle arrangements all over the table by means of low white pottery pieces or of clear blue crystal ones—the latter have urn-shaped pieces that go with them, too, that simply beg for violets, sweet violets—Or hie yourself to the Little Mart and see what glories can be accomplished in tole! For glorious indeed are the shades of the Parthenon reflected in a set of tole flower-holders arranged like five columns in a row ending in a blaze of three-candled light; and equally charming, if not so grand, is another arrangement called "The Balance," where three small porcelain flower-laden pots dangle daintily from a colorful wooden balance.

New Flowers

But so much floral elegance is expensive, of course, unless you have a garden (and at that a garden that can brave dust and drought and still raise its head "dusty but unbowed") so that if it's not the initial cost it's the upkeep that may scare you away. In which case Emery, Bird's ever-popular flower department now literally blooming with timely forsythia, apple blossoms, daffodils and lilac, should prove an enticing consolation!

GALLIMAUFREY

DEPARTMENT

Joyous Easter has passed and we settle down to the dismal period of awaiting that fate which will so surely overtake our Easter bunny. This year we have to face not only the rabbit's

inevitable tragedy, but also the unavoidable doom which will end the innocent lives of four baby chicks. We feel that these little Easter greetings are singularly sad for, from the moment they thoughtlessly broke out from their shells, they have been marked as victims. Believe it or not, they are dyed blue, pink, green and lavender. It's a secret process and the results are all too cute. There's just not a chance that one of them will be spared to grow into a busy pink hen, or a proud light green rooster.

The Ceramic department of the Kansas City Art Institute has been collecting movie magazines lately. They are stacked up all over the place, all well thumbed like the ones you find in beauty parlors. They are there for the purpose of serious research, though. Walter Ellfeldt, head of the department, and his cousin, Cyril McLaughlin, are making puppet heads, using Hollywood queens and stars for models. So far they've made ones resembling Jean Harlow, Bing Crosby, Janet Gaynor, Eddie Cantor and Will Rogers. The little heads are extremely life-like and, when fitted onto their mechanical bodies, will be used to advertise "coming attractions" in the lobbies of our larger, local movie houses. The idea, which certainly strikes us as being highly entertaining, originated in Osage City, Kansas, and thereby proves our contention that it will take more than dust to subdue the native brilliance of our neighboring state.

If you like Italian cooking (we mean real Italian cooking, please, not gummy spaghetti, meat balls and tomato catsup), if you like delicious antipasto, ravioli with homemade noodles, chicken or veal, cooked to perfection, with hearts of artichoke, or green olives, if you like crisp lettuce with a perfect dressing of olive oil and soured wine, if you like zabaglione, that ace of desserts when made with honor and skill; call Mrs. Frank De Angelis, Westport 5693, and try to make a reservation for one of her dinners. She is the wife of Mr. Walter Richard's chauffeur and has been in this country only a few years. We have a feeling that Il Duce must have hated to see her leave Italy, for her talent is a rare one, and did doubtlessly add to the glory and prestige of her land.

"To get the full flavor of Elodie Charlton, in her raspberry-tinted corduroy riding breeches, sauntering into the Ritz Hotel in Paris on an October day in 1929, one must have seen in the mind's eye very much more than her beauty and self-possession."

(From the continued story in the Kansas City Times.)

Thanks for the tip, but we'll take vanilla.

Mr. M. Breyer, der fuhrer of Harzfeld's smart millinery shop, sent us this letter, believing it would give us a little insight into the complexities of his business.

Rockport, Mo., April 14, 1935.

"Gentlemen:

If you have a \$25.00 baby blue Neopolitan (horse hair) very pliable hat chic flower trim French hat for \$5.00 please send to me. No substitute (or silver pink)—but \$25.00 quality.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. "

We agree with him to the extent of not being sure at all about the meaning of the "no substitute (silver pink)" phrase. However, in our secret heart we know that come April, we might easily yearn for a "pliable baby blue hat, chic." At the worst, it's just a symptom of that ageless universal complaint, Springtime, which plagues us all with wistful dreams and strange desires.

Last Saturday afternoon, we were at home trying hard to read a proletarian novel when the Voice came booming into the room—loud, clear, distinct. It ordered us to give this little group a big hand, to report

Follow to page eight

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Nineteen Thirty-five

April twenty-sixth

FUTURE

7

LEAVES WITHOUT FRUIT

Columns of Criticism and Comment

MUSIC THEATRE ART

The Thompson Club is a small and casual local institution without dues, officers, public obligations or tiresome culture committee. It is composed of John Thompson's students, past and present, and meets once a month or so at the homes of the students. Chairs are gathered about, cigarette ashes are spilled here and there and, one after another, perhaps a dozen students play during the passing of two hours. Be it noted that there is no pretty giggling or remonstrance when the course of the program brings the spotlight to the several players. Each one rises to add his or her part to the whole with prompt assurance and composure, and each is listened to critically and carefully.

There is some fine work being done among these young people under John Thompson's direction. Much of it is not of recital calibre, but the greater part of the students attain a very happy degree of competence, and some few do work of a truly high degree of excellence. Wanda Corti is one; others will be mentioned here some time from now.

It is brought very strongly to the attention of an outsider sitting in on one of these pleasant meetings that the development of even a modest talent for piano performance can be accomplished, and that one can bring to his own understanding the beauty that is in music

although he may never strike a note in public. How many there are of dubs who floundered in their youth through a few years of "Piano Lessons" with one eye on the clock and the other frantically marking down a lefthand chord on the keyboard, the while harrying some tired teacher who must have wished with bitterness that she had bought a chicken ranch instead of a grand piano. There are so many of them who could have turned the opportunity into building a decent capacity for playing, a substantial accomplishment to cherish. Perhaps some Federal agency will essay a survey on the proportion of Americans who can play piano to the number of pianos in American homes: it must be very small.

A reader of this column has suggested the formation, next year, of an Ear Club for Philharmonic concerts similar to that told by Robert Havens Schauffler, and mentioned here some weeks ago. In a good deal of diffidence caused by a secret question as to the number of readers making a good showing in a block of seats, I put forward the statement that applications will be received from quiet people who never cough, don't whistle when they breathe, never wiggle, and will promise to make public the name of any co-sitter in the Club who does any of the three. N. L. S.

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True Story

One of M-G-M's glamour girls has been holding forth at the Midland this week in a tasty little morsel called "Reckless." The plot comes as close as it dares to the Libby Holman-Smith Reynolds scandale celebre.

The show girl heroine, blind to the long-time devotion of her quondam press agent, elopes with a wealthy playboy. She is not accepted by the southern aristocracy to which he belongs, due to her Broadway origin, and due to the fact that he has jilted his childhood sweetheart. He becomes morose over the snubs of his friends, and this bitterness is heightened by the marriage of his former fiancée. He commits suicide, resulting in an unpleasant inquest. When her child is born, the show girl refuses the assistance of her father-in-law, and gallantly attempts a Broadway comeback in order to support her baby. She wins her audience and also her long-suffering press agent.

William Powell is not as debonair as usual in his role as the old standby. Franchot Tone, since Bengal Lancers do not grow on every scenario, is back in his old typed part of the man who always loses out. Rosalind Russell, as the jilted fiancée, is fast becoming a good bet as the sort of sporting creature a man ought to marry. Besides these three, an impressive cast includes May Robson, Henry Stephenson, Ted Healy, Nat Pendleton, and Jean Harlow.

Mystery

Edna May Oliver is good fun. She appears again as Hildegard Withers, a lady sleuth, who solves "The Honeymoon Murders." The story is swift. There are murders when least expected, and although the steps by which Hildegard arrives at the proper deduction are so childishly simple that one longs for the intricacies of Philo Vance, still Miss Oliver has a grand chance to

show off her special brand of comedy. This is of a sort that can be refreshing if indulged in about once a year.

Week of April 26-May 3

Claudette Colbert is starring at the Newman in "Private Worlds." It should be good, judging from the advance notices. Miss Colbert has improved in acting ability and gained in popularity with each picture. In this one, she joins Ann Harding and Kay Francis in the medical profession, only she goes them one better in being a psychiatrist in an insane asylum. She has an opportunity to straighten out her own life, while untangling the complexities of the other doctors, and certain of the inmates. The cast includes Charles Boyer, an attractive newcomer, Joan Bennett, Helen Vinson, and Joe McCrea.

It's a bet that every youngster will remember historical personages vividly. All of their faces, however, will be superimposed upon the peculiarly unforgettable visage of Mr. George Arliss. This time he plays Richelieu, on view at the Midland. It is safe to predict that this production will be a perfect seventeenth century pageant, correct in the detail of the period. Mr. Arliss will no doubt appear to better advantage as the famous cardinal than as Wellington. He is assisted by Maureen O'Sullivan, Edward Arnold, and Violet Kemble-Cooper.

M. J.

Nelson Gallery

In "Point Counter-Point," one of Huxley's characters says "Everything that happens is intrinsically like the man it happens to," the keenness of which observation was delightful until I realized it made me look like someone out of a Thurber cartoon. The Saturday afternoon before Easter I strolled toward the Nelson Gallery, intent on Art and completely uninformed that everyone in Jackson County below age 14 was fast gathering for an eggrolling frolic. I thought the crowd seemed larger than any in a year; but having suffered since birth with a rare form of astigmatism which elevates objects, I was tricked into seeing college students home for the holidays instead of wee-folk, and didn't grasp the true situation until I reached the north doors. It was then too late to retract. Hurriedly, from all sides, I was being moved through Kirkwood Hall, and straight out onto the field where I might have spent an afternoon with the kiddies, but that I extricated myself in the south vestibule and hid with Bacchus in a niche until the stampede passed. Physically I was unharmed, but my dignity suffered a breakdown when two nurses took me for a moron and followed me all the way to gallery 20 to see what I'd do next. They vanished, however, at the first sight of pictures.

Woodcuts often depend upon a literary quality to gain their ends, and, unless expertly handled, turn out as illustrations. Gallery 16 at the museum is given over at present to the Woodcut Society whose exhibit offers meticulous draughtsmanship and little else. I thought Agnes M. Parker's cat studies as good as anything in the show, but Mildred Hammond is still my favorite feline interpreter. If the way Van Huysum painted drops of water in his "Flower Piece" thrills you, go look at the ones in C. F. Tunnicliffe's "Moorhen and Water Lilies." Lionel Lindsay gains a nice black quality in "Pheasant and Wistaria," but the subject is banal.

I thought the color prints in gallery 15 were part of the same show\ but evidently not. Of these, Bresslern-Roth's "Phantoms" interested me. He has been doing animal prints, and nice ones, for several years; and the nocturnal panthers in this new print are as good as the band of simians he did in the same manner some time ago. Glenn Wheete, to me, wastes a lot of time getting a water-color technique when he might just as well have used that medium.

The Little Gallery in the Woods, 4928 Troostwood

Miss Effie Seachrest, one of Kansas City's most active champions of Art, is showing a new group of drawings from the Rehn Gallery of New York, together with the 15 or 20 paintings comprising her winter exhibit. The drawings are by five Americans—McFee, Kantor, Carroll, Speicher, and Kroll. With the possible exception of Kantor, who still experiments, these men show a culmination in their art; and these drawings need no signatures to be recognized. Speicher is the best known in Kansas City, although paintings by each in the group have been seen here before.

A seated figure of a girl by John Carroll is one of the neatest things this artist has done. He has caught the expression of a type seen often in Bohemian haunts; and I for one do not mind its having been drawn with facile skill and gentleness. Once in a while a holiday from the painters with vital messages does my heart good.

Speicher never paints pretty women. They are interesting or beautiful, but never vacuous like the gal on your grocer's calendar. Two of his heads and a nude confirm my belief that a painter's best work often occurs in drawing.

Kroll surprised me by painting in oil on paper. I don't know what the advantage is, because Kroll manages the same smoothness on canvas; but he had me looking on the back to see if the oil had penetrated through the paper. It hadn't.

I can see you wearily skipping another long list of names, so I'll just mention a few of the paintings on exhibit. There is a warm Burchfield water color of a backyard in summer which stands its ground in a room hung with oils; a Pissarro market scene much like the one our museum owns; a low-keyed landscape with dark hills, blue-gray lake and salmon foreground by Henry Varnum Poor; an Arthur B. Davies from his Dalian period; and a Mary Cassatt pastel. You see, I do it that way and it's still an inventory.

It will be worth your while to 'phone Miss Seachrest and arrange an appointment. You don't want all your culture second-hand from a prejudiced critic.

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FUTURE

April twenty-sixth

SPORTS

Baseball's First Week

The first week of scheduled play in baseball is over. The standing of various teams in the different leagues is interesting to analyze. It is much too early in the race to predict the pennant winners with any degree of certainty—but if today's leaders in the major leagues are the leaders when the curtain goes down, a lot of baseball handicappers are going to be wrong.

National League

In the National League, the mighty N. Y. Giants have just broken even in their wins and loses. With warmer weather Terry's men will increase those "wins." With thanks to the Dean brothers, the St. Louis Cards have a percentage of 600. Pittsburgh has gotten off to a very bad start.

The two surprise teams are Brooklyn and Cincinnati. They are setting the pace, being tied for first place. Casey Stengel and his Dodgers were supposed to give trouble to all aspirants for number one position. They may give so much trouble that Casey's crew might be in full possession of that coveted place when it's all over in September.

Cincinnati's play to date is a great deal better than was expected. Charley Dresden has evidently injected new life and hi-life into the Reds. If they keep up their present stride, most all baseball fans will be surprised.

American League

The going seems to be rather rough in the American League for Mickey Cochrane and his Detroit Tigers. While a great many of the "pennant pickers" picked Detroit to put up a hard battle with the team that finished first, very few thought the Tigers would repeat this year. A lot can happen between now and September, but Mickey is going to find several teams in the American League much stronger than they were in 1934.

Joe Cronin has his Boston Red Sox off to a flying start. At the end of the first week's play, they are leading the league and they may stay right there. The wise boys up Boston way may turn out to be the Wise Men from the East if the Red Sox win the pennant. The Cleveland Indians are living up to the early spring predictions for this club. Walter Johnson has one of the best balanced teams in either league this year. They are crowding the Red Sox for number one

place and if they falter, the Indians will come charging into the lead. They will have to be beaten by any club that desires first place position.

Marse Joe and his N. Y. Yankees are doing fairly well. They do not seem to be handicapped by the absence of Ruth.

American Association

In the American Association, the Columbus Red Birds are leading the pack. As long as they get the help from the St. Louis Cards they will perhaps continue to do so.

The Kansas City Blues are in full and absolute possession of last place. To date the Blues have not tasted of victory in the 1935 season. President Kling will have to get some baseball talent from some source, if Manager Zwilling is going to have a winning ball club. C. M. L.

The Solons

From page two

“When a citizen attempts to talk with one of these ‘man behind the committee’ men he invariably runs into a man of mystery. He informs you that he is ‘just a member of the committee and you will have to see the chairman.’ So the citizen just goes around and around, you see.

“Many ordinary citizens, including myself, have been wondering why it has taken the state legislature so long to do so little. A little investigating in Jefferson City impressed me with the fact the whole thing is a game with the outcome, which is of course in the hands of the controlling element, being somewhat certain.

“Kansas Cityans who go to Jefferson City for the same purpose as myself are told pretty bluntly that a certain Kansas City senator is the ‘power behind the throne.’ The game consists in the smart jockeying of bills by the crowd in control. By delaying the revenue bills the outstate members, not so closely connected with the lobbyists and political machines, have been forced to return home because their pay has been for several weeks at the rate of only \$1 a day. They cannot afford to remain at that pay unless they have funds of their own or receive it elsewhere. Who pays the many solons’ upkeep after they go on the \$1 a day basis? Books have been written on that subject and I suspect most people have drawn their conclusions.

“Summing up the state legislature: it would seem the people will have to take what they get and like it.”

Gallimaufry

From page six

to the directors’ office if our name was Johnny Schmalz and we were lost, to watch the bunnies who were about to roll eggs on the lawn. We shut all windows, but the Voice came right in anyway. We heard it call on Aileen Snyder to award her a prize for her decorated egg. That got us. We walked up to the Nelson Gallery to see how it was done; the Voice, we mean. Newton Cross, from Ferry-Hanley was talking into the mike, but a young man at the foot of the south steps, busy with a board full of gadgets and dials was really responsible for the tremendous, all pervading amplification. His name is Ernest Gaw and with his partner, Edward Roche, he has been doing this sort of thing since 1932. The equipment is pretty complicated, (to us, at least). He explained that the voice was sort of shot out of the amplifiers; like a cannon ball, we thought he said. It only takes a couple of hours to install the whole business. They’ve never had anything go wrong on a job. Again we were thrilled at the technological advance of young America, but we feel there’s danger, nay, madness in this miraculous Olympian super-

amplification of the human voice unless carefully checked. We can refuse to read papers, turn off the radio and stay away from movies, but where to go if a local Huey Long should take a notion to harangue us in a big way? It would only cost him \$25.00 to get Messrs. Gaw and Roche to fix him up. We'd have to run away, I guess, farther and farther from our happy home, until the voice grew faint upon the gentle, defenceless air.

Nos Habebit Lapetina

From page one

Lapetina. If it so happens, and it generally does, that the family have a feeling that they'd like to pick their own undertakers, the real situation develops. The selected undertaker may call for the body, but before he can take it away from the Lapetina parlors he must pay, and pay all the traffic will stand. In some cases the fee is \$25, but in others it climbs to \$35, \$50, and even \$65. It covers, so we are told, the expense the good Lapetina has been to in moving the body and ministering to it. The fact that complete embalming has to be done by the undertaker eventually in .charge would seem to indicate that the ministrations were of the slightest.

And who asked him to move the body anyway? Is the General Hospital so pressed for beds that the dead must be bundled out almost before they are cold? Isn't there time to call the families and ask them what disposition they wish made? And if Lapetina must charge for his unsought services, why isn't his rate constant? Why \$25 to one and to another \$65? Is the ransom rated according to the financial standing of the deceased?

This is no secret. It has been common knowledge for a long time. Those in command at the General Hospital can hardly claim the dubious alibi of ignorance. If they didn't know, they were guilty of grave neglect. And if they did know, well

The practice of a hospital throwing business to an undertaker is not new, though it reflects no credit on either institution. The idea of paying a bonus to a coroner for steering work in the direction of some firm is an old form of graft. But this scheme of appropriating a body and demanding a ransom for it is more unusual. It bespeaks a condition of political corruption in vital civic services, to say the least, beyond the common. The average patient at the General Hospital isn't rich. His family are hard pressed to afford even a modest funeral. Add \$35 to the bill and the hardship worked is tremendous. We don't pretend to think that Lapetina is getting it all, and we accuse the political powers that stand behind him. In short, just to be original, We are again forced to accuse the machine.

Gaudeamus Igitur,

Juventus dum sumus;

Post jucundem juventutem

Post molestem sevectutem

Nos habebit humus.

"Rejoice therefore," says the old Latin chant. "After joyful earth will get us." Nos habebit youth, after sad old age, then the humus—the earth will get us. Perhaps we should revise: Nos habebit Lapetina.

Smbalmers

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