

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

OUR mail during January and February indicated that some of our subscribers were clearly under the impression that the advance in The Outlook's subscription price was unwarranted. In a few cases we have written direct to subscribers, giving the real facts and stating in detail the actual increase in cost of paper and all printing and mechanical costs involved in the production of The Outlook. These letters were confidential but explicit. We have been particularly gratified to find that in every instance where such a letter was sent the subscriber has replied, conceding that we are right and amply justified in charging the present subscription price, and inclosing a check for \$5 for renewal. We reprint two of these letters herewith which are typical of them all; one comes from a subscriber in Portland, Oregon, the other from a subscriber in Buffalo, New York:

"I thank you for your letter of February 8 in reply to my criticism of The Outlook's subscription price. I am sensible of the fact that you did not write in a mere effort to hold a subscriber. Nevertheless I inclose herewith check for \$5 for my renewal. In these days of the 'get-all-you-can' manifestation one comes to suspect about everybody. But you have convinced me The Outlook did not deserve to be so suspected."

"My letter to you of January 10 was not intended to convey the idea that I suspected you of profiteering. I know your reputation too well for that. Your letter of the 12th has given me considerable inside information regarding the cost of raw materials necessary to get out your publication.

"Please accept my thanks for the frank manner in which you have explained the situation to me and, regretting that I have put you to so much trouble, please find inclosed check covering my subscription for 1921."

IN Prize Contest Number One you were invited to write about The Outlook. In Contest Number Two, an announcement or which appears elsewhere in this issue, we invite you to write about yourself. The subject of this contest is "What the World War Has Done to Me." We want autobiographical flashes from all kinds of experiences. If you are one of the people who, as charged at the recent meeting of the New York Council of Deans of Women, have lost their ethical standards as a result of the war, why not enter this contest and tell us all about it? Whether you're a flapper or a philosophical octogenarian, we are interested in your reactions to the war. This contest closes March 31.

"THE OUTLOOK is the most reliable friend I have," writes a Michigan physician. "We have had it in our family for many years. My wife finds The Outlook the best reference magazine, and it is the only one we keep. We have all the numbers for twenty years. Any topic of real worth has a fair discussion in The Outlook."

THURSDAY next is a good time to earn Gilbert K. Chesterton's "The Man Who Was Thursday."

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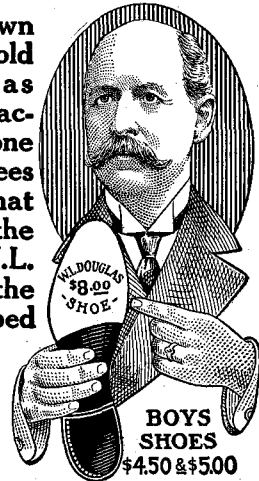


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MR. CHESTERTON, in his book about Jerusalem, says that the tradition of Turkish rule in the Holy City is a joke. "All the stories about it," he says, "are jokes, and often very good jokes. My own favorite incident is that which is still commemorated in the English cathedral by an enormous hole in the floor. The Turks dug up the pavement looking for concealed English artillery; because they had been told that the bishop had given his blessing to two canons! The bishop had indeed recently appointed two canons to the service of the church, but he had not secreted them under the floor of the chancel."

Even the most expert movie acrobats miss their footing now and then, it appears from this paragraph in a film magazine: "Douglas Fairbanks's injuries in a fall he suffered while doing a stunt in his latest picture, 'The Nut,' will keep him idle for about five weeks; it is believed that he will now visit Japan to get exteriors for a new picture."

Toledo, Ohio, a writer in "Collier's" says, is the only city he knows where any stranger can find the art institute by asking any child on the street. "Children really built the museum building," he says. "Their pennies, nickels, and dimes made a pile four feet high in a bank window. The newsboys worked like beavers for the cause, on the slightest warrant crying through the streets, 'All 'bout the Art Musm!' On any Saturday you can see in the Museum's basement hundreds of typical healthful, happy American youngsters picnicking at luncheon time in order to be in the Museum all day."

Evidence that the world is getting back to "normalcy" is found in the number of exploring expeditions that are planned for this year—at least sixteen according to one paper's count. There is to be a British Antarctic expedition, which will be equipped with airplanes; an expedition to explore the sources of the Amazon; one to northern Asia, to search for traces of primitive life; one to survey the South Sea Islands; one to study earthquake phenomena in Mexico, which will use an improved seismometer called an "inerviameter," to record both motion and energy; four expeditions to explore Africa; expeditions to the frozen North by the veterans Rasmussen and Amundsen; and one to Siberia to the Kolyma River, which is said to be frozen over 280 days in a year and to be the cause of terrific inundations when it thaws.

The London "Sphere" celebrates its twenty-first birthday with a review of the notable events that have occurred during its life. The war, of course, has been the greatest of these, historically. The most far-reaching, perhaps, has been the development of the airplane and the automobile. In science the palm is given to Mme. Curie with her discovery of radium, while in the field of exploration Peary's discovery of the

North Pole is the outstanding event. Woman suffrage is considered the chief political change. In literature the chief place is given to Joseph Conrad and H. G. Wells. In the field of amusement, the cinema and the phonograph are regarded as the pre-eminent developments of the period.

The cosmos, according to Einstein as recently expounded in the New York "Times," has finite limits, and light traveling at 186,000 miles a second would reach the limits of the universe in a billion light-years. A correspondent of the "Times" humorously suggests, in answering the question, What is beyond the limits of the cosmos? that "there is where the elusive mathematical quantities, such as zero, infinity, and the square root of minus one, live and cavort together on the terraces of nothing, and play hide and seek in the fourth dimension."

A judge's decision was recently quoted in this column, in which the advice was given that lawyers should not interlard their remarks with Latin phrases. Apropos of this advice a subscriber sends the following excerpt from Artemus Ward's account of a Patti concert:

Miss Patti orter sing in the English tung. As she kin do so as well as she kin in Italyun, why under the son don't she do it? What cents is thare in singing wurdz nobody don't understan when wurdz we do understan is jest as handy? Why people will versifferously applaud furrin language is a mistery.

The Mexican method of preparing and using chocolate, as described in "The People of Mexico," by Wallace Thompson, is peculiar. Chocolate, he says, is prepared by the Spanish method, which includes a steady "whipping" of the boiling chocolate, sugar, water, and milk with a wooden beater whirled between the two hands. "The result is an extremely rich and very delicious mixture which can be thinned, if desired, with hot milk or cream, although this outrage is usually committed only by foreigners. When taken in the proper Mexican fashion the chocolate is sopped up with the white breads, sweetened or unsweetened, which accompany breakfast."

To the literature of illiterate signs a reader contributes the following "modern instance," seen on a Brooklyn rooming house:

LIGHThouse.
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In The Outlook of January 26 three photographs appeared, on pages 140, 153, and 154, in articles on Forest Conservation. These photographs were mistakenly marked Copyright by the Keystone View Company, from whom they were obtained. They should have been credited to the New York State Conservation Commission, having been taken for the Commission by W. S. Carpenter, Secretary to the Commission.