

ANNIVERSARY OF CEMENT OBSERVED

The World This Year Pays Honor to Unsung Stonemason of Leeds.

Washington.—To Joseph Aspdin, an unsung stonemason of Leeds, the world pays honor this year for his discovery which literally cements the foundation stones of civilization.

The one hundredth anniversary of Joseph Aspdin's experiment producing artificial rock, yellow like the rock from the quarries of Portland, is marked by the erection in Leeds by the American cement manufacturers of a memorial tablet to one "who made the whole world his debtor."

"Greater tribute to the vision of Joseph Aspdin are endless white ribbons of concrete highways, the annual increase of which in the United States alone would build three continuous Lincoln highways from New York to San Francisco," says a bulletin of the National Geographic society from its headquarters in Washington.

"Cheops' great pyramid at Gizeh, covering 13 acres and towering 451 feet, is still considered the world's most colossal man-made structure, yet the little lump of stone made by Joseph Aspdin in 1824 has grown so great that the United States is estimated to have poured in a year sufficient concrete to erect 30 pyramids like Cheops'. The 90,000,000 cubic feet of the pyramid represent only three-fifths of the concrete in the Panama canal.

"Aspdin must share with imperial Rome part honor for giving the world liquid stone. Rome used hydraulic cement in her famous aqueducts, and it was in search of Rome's secret, lost for ten centuries, that Aspdin and others worked their way toward modern concrete. Roman masons found that by mixing lime with volcanic ash from Pozzuoli near Naples a mortar impervious to water resulted. On this discovery rested much of Rome's glory, for the magnificence and extent of the city was physically impossible without a water system. Unconsciously Aspdin imitated Nature; the volcano was nature's kiln. The stonemason, by baking his materials in a heat which approximated the volcano's heat, created the principle found in Pozzuoli ash, a substance which hardens on contact with water.

Lehigh Is Cement Valley.

"Although portland cement is produced in 27 states, the Lehigh valley of Pennsylvania is the Pozzuoli of the United States. Silica, calcium and alumina are the necessary cement ingredients which are contained in rock formations 'made to order' in this valley. "Crushers in the Lehigh valley take blasted rocks as large as five feet wide, three feet high and ten feet long and munch them readily into bits. Other teeth grind the stone to powder, which is mixed with water to form a sloppy 'slurry.' Under air pressure this is blown into the man-made volcano, a cement kiln, the largest of which is half as long as an average city block and has a diameter of ten feet. This tube is lined with firebrick to withstand the terrific heat resulting from the burning of coal dust blown into the kiln from the other end. In the throat of this volcano a reaction occurs, transforming a third of the stone into the active principle of cement. An endless belt brings candescent nodules out of the kiln to more grinders, which crush them to the fineness of flour. Six hundred pounds of raw materials and fuel are required for every 370-pound barrel of cement.

"Cement has itself created a separate industry which has important bearing on the prosperity of the southern states. Annually it requires thirty million new cement sacks of finely woven cotton. To make these, 60,000 acres of cotton must be grown and 1,600 looms operated every day of the year. Woven in one piece, 30 inches wide, the cloth that goes into these sacks would unroll for 17,000 miles.

"Much as the Roman aqueducts were the necessity that mothered the invention of the first hydraulic cement, canals have produced modern cement. Aspdin's portland cement was first used extensively in the Thames tunnel. Early American cement factories can be traced by early American canals, notably the Erie canal, which popularized the product in the United States.

"Aside from its irreplaceable value for a thousand uses, portland cement is saving millions of dollars to civilization by cutting down the requirements for power. Scientific tests show that it requires nearly three times more power to move a ton over a gravel road, and two times more over a macadam road, compared with the 27.6 pounds necessary on a level stretch of concrete.

Matting Steel and Cement.

"A French gardener's flowerpot with imbedded metal parts was the simple origin of reinforced concrete, whose vast possibilities are sounded scarcely more than the mysteries of the heavens. Steel and cement, experts find, are happily mated. As in all good families, the qualities one lacks the other has. Concrete is noted for resisting compression and does not easily break down under batterings of weather. Steel protected by cement will not rust away, and its elasticity makes possible an ideal building ma-

terial, strong, light, permanent, fire proof and yet not brittle.

"The highest monument to concrete's value is a great chimney in Japan, fifteen feet higher than the Washington monument. It withstands frequent earthquakes. Lorado Taft's towering statue to 'Black Hawk' above Oregon, Ill., is a true monument to concrete. The material is used for levees on the Mississippi. It is shot from guns for broad surfaces. Ships and barges have been made with it. Skyscrapers find it a stout foundation. Farms alone use nearly one-fourth of the United States' cement for innumerable purposes."

Psychology Simplified for Police by Boy, 10

New York.—A group of thirty men was gathered in a lecture room at Bellevue hospital recently listening to Dr. Menas S. Gregory, director of the psychopathic and alcoholic service, lecture on psychology.

They were members of the New York police department's training school for detectives, and their expressions indicated that they were not absolutely sure whether psychology was something in the police regulations or not. But before they had left the room a ten-year-old boy had given them a demonstration of applied psychology which had more force than weeks of theoretical lecturing.

Doctor Gregory had noticed that the men were not completely grasping the meaning of his talk, so he sent word to have a boy who was being held as an incorrigible brought to the lecture room. Then he called for a member of the class to step to the front. The boy was told:

"Suppose that this policeman had just arrested you and you are trying to get away. What would you do?" Then the boy was put in custody of the policeman. He scratched, bit, kicked and struggled until he wriggled loose and ran between the policeman's legs and upset him on the platform amidst his brother officers' guffaws. Doctor Gregory questioned the boy, saying:

"Now tell us just why you did the things you did. Why did you scratch the policeman?"

"Aw, that's easy," replied the boy. "When a cop's got me I'm gonna fight to get away. When I scratch his face he puts his hands up to cover his eyes and when he does I'm gone."

Men Bigger and Better Liars Than Women

Berlin.—Never believe a man, ladies. Lucifer, the father of lies, was a male and so was Ananias, legendary champion of untruthfulness. Not only are men much bigger liars than women, but they are better liars.

All persons, without exception, lie more or less frequently. A man lies either from habit or to further his interests. A woman lies to extricate herself from an embarrassing position. Men are more original in their lying because they have had more practice, and "practice makes perfect."

These conclusions come from Professor Ehlers, a well known Danish physician. Being masculine, he ought to know all about lying.

The professor was among the contributors to a symposium with which a Danish newspaper tried to answer the question whether men or women were better liars. Most of the contributors, mostly men, agreed that everybody lies. The observations of Professor Ehlers, however, caused the most comment. He says that women usually fall back on the same threadbare lies which bear the stamp of lies on their face.

Farm Wife Is Mother of 18 at 38; Hubby Is Maid

Flat Rock, Mich.—While Mrs. Henry Brunette with her eighteen children undoubtedly has set a record for the mothers of the Upper Peninsula, Henry himself is acquiring laurels as a housemaid. Mrs. Brunette is thirty-eight and her husband forty-two.

Fourteen of their children, including twin boys, who arrived recently, are living.

Brunette owns a farm, but finds time to do considerable of the housework. His wife does all the family washings and ironings, her own baking, ministers to the family, milks four cows and feeds 52 chickens every day.

Mrs. Brunette was married when she was fourteen. Her first husband was killed in the woods when she was nineteen. Mrs. Brunette had three children then. She was married to Henry Brunette a year later. Nine of the children living are boys and five are girls. The ages are twenty-three, twenty-two, eighteen, fifteen, fourteen, twelve, ten, eight, six, five, two, thirteen months and four days.

Snakes Used in Japan for Food and Medicine

Tokyo.—More than two hundred snake dealers in Tokyo supply the city's demand for snakes as food and medicine, according to figures gathered by Jiji Shimpou, one of Tokyo's leading newspapers.

Tokyo citizens consume about 40,000 snakes each month, says this paper. Snakes, mostly of the viper family or garter snakes, are either eaten by invalids needing the nourishing factor which science has labeled vitamin A, in which these reptiles are supposed to be rich, or they are consumed as a drink, made by burning them and dissolving the ashes in spirits. Such consumption of snakes is due to old superstitions and does not have medical indorsement.

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

By Mary Graham Bonner

GOOD AND BAD

You know there are the twins who live in some of the story books and they have a perfectly wretched time of it.

They have another home, too. Their other home is a vine-covered house and there they are kept by vines which won't let them get away for real fun. They have everything so snarled up—they're not pretty vines at all.

They entangle themselves about everything, for they are the vines of untruth and they work quite unfairly.

The twins had once told their story to the boy and girl adventurers, but they wanted to tell it again, so when the Fairy Queen went a-calling one day she stopped to see them.

They had asked if she would come to see them and they had sent their message by Master Thoughtfulness.

They were not having quite such a hard time as they once had had and they were hoping before long to be free.

They thought perhaps they could get the Fairy Queen to send messages to grown-ups for them, and so they wanted to see her and ask her about it.

They had heard from Master Thoughtfulness how lovely she was and they felt sure she would take their messages for them.

She wandered along some distance until she found their house. It was so covered with these entangled, snarled vines that she could hardly see it at first.

Then she could discover from an upper window two children who looked almost exactly alike.

"They must be the twins," she said to herself. "And this is just where Master Thoughtfulness told me I'd find them."

"Are you the Fairy Queen?" one of the children called out.

"Here, come back here," said the other, and one twin gave the other a great push.

"I'm ready to help you, dear," the other said. "Don't be unkind to me. I'll forgive you."

The Fairy Queen thought the twins seemed very strange. She didn't like the one whose voice sounded so sweet, nor the one who had given the push.

The latter seemed so cross and the former seemed much too sweet.

But the Fairy Queen managed to get through the vines with the aid of her magic wand and she went upstairs to see the twins.

They looked nicer to her now.

"We're both sorry," they said together. "Now we'll tell you our story."

"We can't help acting like that at times. We don't want to, but we can't help it. It has become such a habit."

They both talked together a good deal of the time, or one spoke and then the other went on with the story. This was their story.

"You see," they said, "we are the good little child and the bad little child of the story books."

"We are kept here by vines of untruth and the only way we can be free is if people who tell our stories will only tell the truth about it."

"For so long we've had so wretched a time. One of us always has to be so very, very bad, and the other has to be so very, very good."

"Now we don't like that. If the one of us who is bad wants to be good it is not allowed. And the good one can't be bad."

"You know, Fairy Queen, that isn't fair. We're both good and bad—both of us. At heart we're quite natural."

"And oh, it is so unfair when these story books are made up and we're forced to do work we don't want to do. We're forced to be very good and very bad."

"You know children aren't like that—any more than grown-ups."

"There is bad and good all mixed in together—and no one feels like being better when they hear of anyone like the good twin who is so good that she just isn't natural! That isn't the way to make anyone want to become so good. Goodness shouldn't be so sugary and dull and pleased with itself. Goodness should have life to it and joyousness and all such things."

So the twins talked and the Fairy Queen promised she would do her best to see that they were given a fair chance, for she thought, too, that it wasn't fair to have them as they were,—the poor good little child of the story book and the poor bad little child of the story book.

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Elgin to Preserve Trees Over 1,000 Years Old

Elgin.—Cedar trees that were good sized saplings during the first crusades, according to foresters, have been turned over to the Illinois Natural Study society of Elgin by the city, and will be cared for in perpetuity by the society. Only one other large grove of arbor vitae, or white cedars, is said to exist in the state.

Foresters estimate that many of the cedars in Elgin are more than 1,000 years old, and that very probably the present grove is a part of a large woods which was well developed in the Ninth or Tenth century. The trees belong to the same family of plants that include the famous cedars of Lebanon. Scientists say that, barring external accidents and disease, there is no reason why the trees should not live another 1,000 years.

The society, according to Carl F. Gronemann, president, plans to place a permanent label on every tree in the 121-acre park, and to maintain the grove as a scientific preserve and as a public show place.

Coax Alaska Hen to Lay With Electric Lighting

Anchorage, Alaska.—The domestic hen in the interior of Alaska, accustomed to take a layoff during the six months of night in winter, will have to do her steady shift at producing eggs, from all indications. Electricity has come to the aid of the Alaska poultry farmer. By the aid of light and heated quarters hens are being made to lay at a time when in the past the egg supply hardly has paid for feed.

Dairymen are constructing a type of chicken house with a basement in which a large air-tight heater is located. The coop is wired for electricity, so that it may be lighted during the "daylight" hours.

With a market of 58,000 cases of eggs and prices ranging from 75 cents to \$1 a dozen in winter, the poultry industry promises to become one of the most remunerative in the government railroad belt.

98-Lb. Actress "Guilty" of Whipping Six-Foot Man

New York.—Vera Milne Hall, an actress weighing 98 pounds, was convicted in General Sessions court of whipping Edward S. Hurley, a six-foot motion picture agent, in his offices on September 8. Sentence was suspended.

Miss Hall admitted in court that she became excited when she visited Hurley's offices to make him retract allegedly disparaging statements about her, and that she lashed him with a three-foot dog leash. She declared, however, that she employed the leash only when Hurley made a gesture which led her to believe he was going to attack her.

Deer Attacks Car

Libby, Mont.—John Wotring of Warland, while driving in a forest road, came on a deer which appeared as he passed a sharp turn. The animal, a large buck, lowered its horns and charged. When the dust cleared away the buck was minus its horns and the car a fender.

Sunday Thought

Pleasure that comes unlooked-for is thrice welcome; and, if it stir the heart, if augur be there, that may hereafter in a thoughtful hour wake but a sigh, 'tis treasured up among the things most precious, and the day it came is noted as a white day in our lives.—Rogers.

Church's Solid Foundation

The foundation of St. John the Divine church in New York is laid on solid pre-Cambrian rock, among the oldest in creation, so that it is likely to endure longer than many of the old-world cathedrals that are in danger of collapse because of sandy or wampy bases.

J. M. DEWITT

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