

# TURNER'S PUBLIC SPIRIT.

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Boston

Forty-Ninth Year

Ayer, Mass., Saturday, February 3, 1917

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FITCHBURG CO-OPERATIVE BANK

J. J. BARRY & Co. Main Street, AYER  
FEBRUARY 10 5 to 8 o'clock

### TOWNSEND

The February meeting of the Birth-day club was held in the Congregational church vestry Thursday afternoon, Mrs. H. J. Miller, Mrs. Grace Wright and Mrs. Mary Davis, hostesses, Mrs. Davis serving on the committee in place of her sister, Mrs. Sawyer, who was obliged to be away. As this is the month of birthdays brief sketches were given of several promi-

nent individuals born in February. Members responded at roll call with maxims from George Washington, followed by papers on the life of Abraham Lincoln by Mrs. Irving Seaver, James Russell Lowell, Mrs. Annie Bliss; Longfellow, Mrs. Fannie Meade; other poets and musicians, Mrs. Mabel Brackett. Pleasant piano solos were rendered by Albert G. Seaver, and songs by Mrs. Brackett were enjoyed during the afternoon's program. Refreshments were served by the hostesses.

The funeral of Harrison Reed, aged 39 years, 4 months, 14 days, was held at the Center Congregational church on Thursday afternoon at two o'clock. Rev. A. L. Brubaker officiating. Interment was in the family lot at the Center cemetery.

Mrs. Carrie Russell Strong, from Vassalboro, Me., has been spending a few days at the home of her brother, William A. Russell.

The senior and junior classes of the high school, chaperoned by the teachers, will entertain as guests the senior and junior classes of the Ashby and Lunenburg high schools at a masquerade party in Memorial hall on Friday evening.

The Methodist Epworth league will entertain Friday evening at the M. E. church all members of the Fitchburg Circuit league. A supper will be served and a pleasant social evening expected.

Anyone desiring to have articles inserted in the town warrant should present the same to the selectmen at once. Mrs. Noah Wallace was called away Wednesday to Nashua by the serious illness of her father, Mr. Libby, who is sick with pneumonia at the home of her brother.

Alonso Jenkins, who suffered a shock this week while in S. A. Wood's store, still remains very ill at his home on Highland street.

### About Town.

Mrs. Sarah Maxwell, who recently underwent a successful operation in Nashua, N. H., for appendicitis, has returned to town and is at present stopping at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bowley.

Hammond Creighton, the youngest brother of William Creighton, was operated on for appendicitis during the past week at Nashua, N. H. Latest reports were that he was doing as well as could be expected and his many friends wish him a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Rufus Brown and her sister, Mrs. John Dix, have both been on the list with the grippe patients.

Charles Brown has been stopping in Ashby at the home of his aunt, Mrs. James Gilson, since the recent death of her husband. Mrs. Gilson is quite helpless and needs some one to care for her.

John King has been on the sick list during the past week.

The many Townsend friends of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Josselyn of the Harbor extend their sympathy to them in the recent loss of their store at the Harbor, which was burned to the ground on Tuesday afternoon.

A sleighride party of young people went to Fitchburg on Friday night of last week.

Herbert Stearns is out again after a recent attack of the grippe.

Mrs. George Kendall spent a few days recently with Mr. Kendall's sister, Harbor.

Mr. and Mrs. Scaries are much more comfortable. Mr. Scaries sat up in bed for the first time on Thursday.

## "FAIR AND COLDER"

You'll see these words a lot this winter, we believe. This country is about due for one of those old-fashioned winters. Have you seen our

## Hart, Schaffner & Marx Overcoats?

They're husky enough to stand any wind or cold weather; not heavy or cumbersome, just warm, comfortable, business-like and above all, stylish. If you're out in the cold much here's what you want.

How about GLOVES, CAPS, MUFFLERS, SWEATERS, OVERSHOES? We are headquarters for all kinds of Winter Wear for the Men and Boys. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back.

## Fletcher Bros. AYER - MASS.

Store Open Monday, Friday and Saturday Evenings

Opposite Depot

AYER - MASS.



## Overcoats

OF EVERY KIND FOR MEN AND BOYS

You will find here a very large stock of handsome and desirable Overcoats. Every man will find here an Overcoat that will be sure to please him. Here is the Dressy Overcoat in Black or Oxford with Velvet Collars and cut 42 inches long. Here is the very attractive Fancy Mixture Overcoat in a variety of styles of fabrics and colorings, all very stylish and well tailored. Here is also the long Storm Coat with the large Storm Collar, cut 52 inches long. We are offering every one of these coats at prices that range from \$2.00 to \$5.00 under the market value today.

Come in and look them over as it is the only way you can be convinced of their superior values.



- Men's Fancy Mixture Overcoats \$10.00, \$15.00, \$18.00, \$20.00 and \$22.00
- Men's Black Kersey Overcoats \$15.00, \$20.00 and \$22.00
- Youths' Fancy Mixture Overcoats \$8.47, \$10.00, \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00
- Boys' Fancy Mixture Overcoats \$5.00, \$7.47, \$8.47, \$10.00 and \$12.00

### Fur Coats

A good stock of FUR COATS and all at remarkably low prices. We cannot replace them at anything like present prices—Dogskin, Horsehide and Galway Calf, made with heavy quilted linings and with large storm collars.

Prices—\$25.00, \$30.00, \$35.00 and \$40.00

### Sheep-lined Ulsters

Sheep-lined Ulsters, ankle length, made of Duck or Mole skin outside and with large fur collars. An ideal coat for the man who drives an automobile in cold weather. They will interest you—better step in and have a look.

Prices—\$15.00, \$18.00, \$22.00 and \$25.00

### Sweaters

How about a good Sweater? We have them—all kinds and colors.

- Men's Sweaters ..... 50¢ to \$7.00
- Boys' Sweaters ..... 98¢ to \$3.00
- Children's Sweaters ..... 50¢ to \$2.00

### Winter Caps

Every kind of Winter Caps; also, a good line of Toques and Toques and Scarfs. Remarkably low prices for the qualities offered.

- Men's Warm Caps ..... 50¢ to \$1.50
- Men's Golf Caps ..... 50¢ to \$1.25
- Boys' Golf Caps ..... 25¢ and 50¢
- Toques for Boys or Girls ..... 50¢
- Toques and Scarfs ..... \$1.00 to \$2.00
- Toques for Children ..... 25¢ and 50¢

### Rubber Footwear

We have everything you can possibly need in way of Rubber Footwear to keep your feet dry and warm. We carry the very best makes and the very best qualities to be found in the country. You will find here such makes as

GOLD SEAL, RED SEAL and GOODYEAR GLOVE

Are you acquainted with the above makes of Rubber Footwear? You will find that they cost you no more than what you usually pay for the ordinary kinds.

## Geo. H. Brown

Store Open on Monday, Friday and Saturday Evenings

Dr. Boynton, who with his car had been pressed into service, was standing but a few feet away. After a brief examination the doctor stated that life was practically extinct. Kindly hands bore the prostrate man to his nearby home. Mrs. Warner, who had been looking at the burning building from a rear window, was told that Mr. Warner had had a bad spell and that he had been brought in and placed upon the bed. Upon entering the room Mrs. Warner realized the worst. Although almost overcome by the shock of her husband's sudden death Mrs. Warner met the hour of trial most bravely.

Neighbors came in to express their heartfelt sympathy and to offer any assistance in their power. Telephone messages were sent the Misses Warner in Worcester, who with their cousin, Major Jones, reached home on the evening train. Mrs. Warner's daughter in Beverly, Mrs. Monroe, arrived the following day. As Mr. Warner's buildings were not entirely beyond the danger zone, it is thought that anxiety for their safety and the excitement of the fire brought on the heart attack that caused his death. Not more than fifteen minutes before his passing away, Mr. Warner, placing his hand over his heart and

taking a long breath, said earnestly to the station agent, "I've had a scare, Tom." The funeral of Mr. Warner was held at his late residence on Friday afternoon.

### New Advertisement.

**Poultry Wanted**  
HIGHEST PRICES PAID FOR  
GOOD POULTRY  
Telephone 51-2 Peppercell  
DAVID SAPERSTAN 20

## A. G. Pollard Co.

THE STORE FOR THRIFTY PEOPLE

LOWELL, MASS.

## 4 Special Sales

Once again our celebrated Underpriced Basement Department (known as the most economical shopping place in New England) comes forth with **FOUR SPECIAL SALES** that mark extraordinary values.

39¢ to 75¢ Yard

### China Silk

Remnants in all New Shades and Designs, in lengths from 1/2 yard to 3 yards, at only

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4000 yards in this lot

\$1.00 and \$1.25 Yard

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Remnants, 50 inches wide, in a good assortment of the New Colors, at

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Palmer Street

Basement

### Ladies' Night Gowns

Envelope, Chemise and White Shirts, made of an extra good quality material, with embroidery and lace trimming, in New Patterns, at

45c. each

A REGULAR 69¢ VALUE

Merrimack Street

Basement

### Men's Flannel Shirts

Made of Extra Good Wool Flannel, in Gray, Khaki and Blue; Special at

\$1.00 each

Palmer Street

Basement

### Chimneys Cleaned

NOW IS THE TIME to have your Chimneys Cleaned Out before they cause you trouble by burning out.

Including Ayer, Harvard, Shirley and Littleton \$1 each

### Harvey W. Winslow

MASON CONTRACTOR  
Tel. Con. Ayer, Mass.

### NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

### HAVE YOUR



ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE
GEORGE H. B. TURNER, Publisher
JOHN H. TURNER, Editor

WESTFORD
Saturday, February 3, 1917.

Center.
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bosworth entertained the former's brother, Elmer Bosworth, of Lebanon, N. H., over this last week-end.

John Fenney, who was taken very seriously sick with acute indigestion in the early hours of Wednesday morning, is reported more comfortable, although weak from suffering. For a day or two he was confined to his room under the close supervision of his physician.

Helen Greig, the little four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Greig, fell down stairs last Sunday at her home and sustained a fracture of her collar bone. Dr. Wells treated the injury and the little patient is doing nicely.

Mrs. Walter J. Merritt has moved back to Bedford, and is now living with the late Mr. Merritt's aunt, Mrs. Lauritta Tyler.

Out-of-town guests at the Tadnuck club on Tuesday evening were Mrs. Joseph R. Draper, of Auburndale, the guest of Mrs. H. V. Hildreth, and Mrs. J. W. Draper, of Lowell.

Mrs. S. E. Watson's name should have been included in the list of entertainers at the social at the Congregational church last week. Mrs. Watson, with Miss Julia Fletcher, contributed a brilliant piano duet.

Mrs. Isles and Mrs. Bosworth happened to see an interesting and unusual sight one day last week. Mrs. Isles, looking out of the window, saw bounding up the street a young doe. The beautiful creature, a young doe, bounded along as if the main street in a village had no fears for it, but without stopping to look back she turned and slipped off through the grounds and beyond W. R. Caryer's residence.

The next meeting for the community sing will be held on Tuesday evening at the Congregational church at 7:30. Everybody is cordially invited to attend.

L. W. Wheeler has been confined to the house this week with an attack of the gripe.

Ferry Shupe, living on the Boston road, is recovering from an attack of threatened pneumonia. Colds, grippe and coughs are very prevalent and it seems as though there is hardly a household but what has had one or more members afflicted.

The members of the Westford A. A. are busy completing arrangements for their tenth annual mid-winter dance to take place on Friday evening, February 10, at the town hall. The association have voted to serve a supper in the lower hall. Fog's orchestra of six pieces to furnish music. The following committees are in charge: Edw. A. Hamilton, Oscar B. Spalding, Charles Roby, J. Herbert Fletcher, Harold L. Wright, Alfred W. Hartford, William E. Wright, Frank C. Johnson, Edward Clement, supper; Inglis Williams, Robert Prescott, Edward Roby, John S. Greig, William R. Taylor, Arthur G. Walker, Edward T. Hanley, decorating; C. A. Blaney, hall; J. Herbert Fletcher, tickets.

Mrs. M. Elizabeth Whitney, of Westford and Brookline, accompanied by Miss Hulda Russell, has gone for a four-months' trip to California and other interesting points. A. H. Sutherland, who has been among the shut-ins with sickness this week, is improving. Mrs. Sutherland has been working very hard at the pumping station recently. Besides his regular duties the installing of the big new pump is a most considerable and an engineering feat and he is working with him have had many difficulties to overcome. While Mr. Sutherland had been sick, C. H. Pickering is helping out at the pumping station. Mrs. J. Herbert Fletcher has recovered from a serious cold and threatened pneumonia. Her son, John Fletcher, is also reported gaining.

Guest Night.
Evening of the Tadnuck club was heralded by auspicious weather and fine sleighing. A large number of the club members, with their guests, had assembled in the town hall when the gavel of the president called to order. Miss Helen Hildreth, graciously welcomed members and guests and announced the evening's program. First in order came a piano duet, the selection being the first movement of a sonata in G major, composed by Mrs. S. B. Watson and Miss Julia H. Fletcher. Then followed a play selected by the art committee of the club, Miss Mary G. Balch and Mrs. Harold W. Hildreth. A beautiful old Greek myth, "Pygmalion and Galatea," dramatized by W. S. Gilbert, was appropriately staged and exceptionally well rendered. The stage was decorated with drawings, vases, statues and draperies to represent a Greek studio. This was planned and largely accomplished by Miss Balch, assisted in other preparations for the play by Mrs. Hildreth. They took the leading characters in the cast, and Miss Balch also designed the graceful and picturesque costumes worn by the actors. Miss Balch, as Pygmalion, the sculptor, was the star actor. His first son, in the role of Galatea, was an admirable second, and the other parts were finely rendered. With Mrs. Percy Wright as Phrynos, and Miss Martha Grant as Hippolyte, his wife, the play was in truth a comedy. Mrs. Adria Fenney and Miss Mabel I. Osborne, as Pygmalion's wife and sister, were lovely Greek ladies in appearance, and really in their different parts. Miss Helen Hildreth, as Leucippe, made a fine, spirited lover. The encounter between the two slaves, Misses A. Mabel Drew and Mattie Crocker, in the first act, was as dramatic and aggressive as need be to introduce their respective masters. Each character was so well portrayed that it faithfully interpreted the old Greek spirit of the play. Between the acts Mrs. Watson and Miss Fletcher gave fine musical selections which rounded out a most enjoyable program. The Tadnuck club is to be congratulated that it has an art committee.

tee of such marked ability that it can produce, entirely from the membership of the club, an entertainment so high in its quality and so satisfactory to the large and appreciative audience in attendance.

At the close of the entertained-admission was made to the lower hall where refreshments were served and a social hour was enjoyed. A buffet luncheon of chicken patties with garniture of peas, rolls, coffee, cake, olives and candies were served. Mrs. O. V. Wis and Mrs. H. B. Fletcher were the pourers and Mrs. L. W. Wheeler was the hostess in charge. About twenty of the ladies of the club assisted in serving and the club officers and the reception committee assisted most capably toward the success of the evening. About 225 were in attendance.

About Town.

At the republican caucus Monday evening Hon. Herbert B. Fletcher was chosen as chairman, Alfred W. Hartford as secretary. Nominations for town officers followed, with the following selections: Selectman, Oscar R. Spalding; assessor, J. Willard Fletcher; overseer of the poor, Wesley O. Hawkes; collector, Leonard W. Wheeler; treasurer, Harold W. Wright; and John Spinner; trustee of J. V. Fletcher library, John P. Wright; cemetery commissioner, George T. Day; auditor, James J. Conant; constable, William L. Wall; free wardens, H. L. Nesmith; moderator, Hon. Herbert B. Fletcher. The above are all re-nominations with the exception of Albert R. Chubb, who was elected for several years of faithful service declined further service. At the democratic caucus on Tuesday evening Joseph Wall was chosen as chairman and Edward Rice as secretary. The nominations of the republican caucus were ratified.

An inspiring talk was given in the vestry of the Unitarian church Monday evening on "Apple and peach trees," by Rev. L. H. Buckhorn and G. E. Labontley. Lantern slide pictures from the agricultural department at Washington were used to illustrate the theory of the speakers. At the first farmers' institute of the season was held in Lowell last week Thursday. Mr. and Mrs. George S. Land were forenoon and afternoon speakers, the former on "Good roads" and the latter on "Household management." Both were fine and many interesting facts were brought out.

Herbert Walker has gone to Jacksonville, Fla., for the winter.

Mark Jenkins and Justin of the old Chamberlain blacksmith shop have closed for the winter and moved to Lowell, the former working in the region of the Boston and Lowell railroad, and the latter for Cameron ice cream parlors.

At the vestry of the Unitarian church Sunday evening Mrs. L. H. Buckhorn gave an inspiring talk on "Hymns and their writers." The choir, assisted by Henry Smith and Alvin Nelson, of Granitville, sang the hymns and tunes of boyhood and girlhood days. It made some feel a half century younger if ever they felt old enough to need going back that far.

Guy Decatur and Henry O'Brien are working for the Boston Ice Company at Sandy pond.

The adjourned meeting of the Board of Trade was held at the town hall this week Friday evening at 7:15 for the election of officers. At 7:45 Hon. George P. Drury, of Waltham, will speak on "The new state income tax." Mr. Drury is an expert on this subject. The meeting is open to the public.

A daughter was born Monday to Mr. and Mrs. James O'Brien on the Providence road.

At the home of her son, Joseph Sargent, Mrs. M. E. Sargent celebrated her eightieth birthday last Sunday. A party of twenty relatives were entertained at dinner in honor of the event. Among those present were her son and wife, and her daughter, Mrs. Helen Sargent, N. H., also her two daughters and friends from Leominster. Her son in town, Joseph, lives on the Edwin E. Hayward farm, near Chamberlain's corner.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard W. Wheeler and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel L. Taylor represented Westford at the farmers' institute in Lowell last week Thursday. Great was the after-dinner with a refreshment which was enjoyed by all which hit everybody in a laugh. Mayor O'Donnell brought the greetings of the city, Robert Marden, president of the Lowell Board of Trade, brought the congratulations of the broader, deeper and more useful Merrimack river than Massachusetts and the United States gets after it as a navigable water course to the sea. The next institute will be held in Braintree in February, thence next in Tyngsboro.

S. L. Taylor attended the hearing on last Friday at the state house before the Senate committee on the petition for a closed season on fish and game for five years.

Forge Village.
John H. Brown, a resident here for thirty years, died at his home early last Saturday morning after a long illness. He was seventy-two years of age. His wife, Caroline, four children, John P., J. Harry of Clinton, Mrs. C. Precious and Katherine M. Brown of this village, and also three grandchildren, Edward, George and Helen, were held at St. Catherine's church, Granitville, Monday morning, a requiem mass being sung by Rev. Fr. Scott. Burial was in St. Catherine's cemetery.

Miss Corine Leclerc and James O'Brien, this village, were united in marriage at St. John's rectory, North Chelmsford, Monday morning by Rev. Fr. Kearney. A small reception was held later at the bride's home on the North Main street, and the members of the immediate families.

William Kavanagh, Orchard street, entertained the football club at his home last Saturday evening, a large number enjoying a musical program. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Kavanagh, assisted by several others. Mr. and Mrs. Mulligan and family, Pine street, are to entertain the club Saturday evening.

Daniel Kavanagh, twelve years old, son of William Kavanagh, was drowned in operation Sunday in Lowell.

Warren Sturkis will be with the Social club at St. Andrew's mission on Thursday evening.

Alvin Bennett has recovered from his recent illness and is able to be out again.

The Daniel Gage Ice Company have

finished cutting here and are now at North Littleton. The ice here has been of excellent quality, being fifteen inches thick.

Mrs. John Sullivan and daughter Mary have returned from a pleasant visit spent with her niece, Mrs. John Cunningham, of Boston.

Mrs. Annie Keefe, of Townsend, has been a recent visitor here.

A great many from here are planning on coming to the ball in Westford to be held by the Westford A. A. on February 9—the event of the season.

Miss Elizabeth Plummer is reported as improving from a severe attack of indigestion.

Mr. J. C. Alford, of Hingham, called on some of his old friends here Wednesday.

A very pleasant sight to see the past few weeks are flocks of pheasants in the door yards of several houses, feeding on crumbs and corn distributed there for their benefit. Several seem very tame and of handsome variety, both male and female.

Mrs. James Whigham is ill at her home on Orchard street.

Little Mildred Dugdale is able to be out after a slight attack of measles.

Granitville.

Many from here attended the open meeting of Westford Grange in the town hall Thursday evening. Joseph Wall and S. L. Taylor had charge of the meeting and Simon B. Barrie and W. S. Holt, president and secretary, respectively, of the Lowell Fish and Game association, were heard in interesting remarks. There was also a short musical program.

The daughter recently born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry LeDuc was christened Mary Claire by Rev. C. P. Heaney in St. Catherine's church last Sunday.

The board of registrars met in Healy's hall on Monday night and many new names were added to the voting list.

The republican and democratic caucuses were held in the town hall on last Monday night. The republican caucus which the different nominations for the various town officers were made. The election will take place at the annual town meeting in February.

The pastor of the M. E. church preached last Sunday morning on "The fringe of the crowd," and in the evening on "The converted coward." At the men's bible class there was a general discussion of the social sin, under the head of the seventh commandment. Mr. Fite gave a talk to the Juniors at the three o'clock meeting, using as illustrations a couple of chemical experiments. Percy Barnes gave a strong presentation of the topic "Half-hearted or whole-hearted Christianity," at the Epworth league meeting.

The members of the Court Granitville, P. O. A., held their regular meeting on Thursday night.

News Items.

The Odd Ladies announce that they will hold an open meeting on Monday evening, February 5, when it is hoped that ladies outside who are interested will attend. The deputy and the grand lady will be present and speak. Refreshments will be served. The meeting will be held in Odd Fellows' hall.

Charles A. Hartwell has filed nomination papers with Charles F. Watts, town clerk, for road commissioner. At the time of the caucus, held some weeks ago, Mr. Hartwell was sick and could not attend. A false report was circulated, namely that Mr. Hartwell did not desire re-election. His many friends and staunch supporters are glad to learn that he is in good health and willing to continue his faithful and conscientious service if the voters of Littleton are pleased to continue their well-placed confidence in him.

Miss Lucy Adams is recuperating at her sister's home in Newtown.

Mrs. Tillotson, of Newtown, is reported sick and in the doctor's care.

Mrs. Norman Cobb and young son returned recently to their home in Newbury, Nt., after a visit of three weeks with Mrs. Cobb's mother.

In a recent issue of the Wellesley college magazine, Miss Helen B. Mitchell, one of the editors, has a story and a poem. This young student, the daughter of Prof. Wilmet B. Mitchell, of Bowdoin, attained literary prominence at Wellesley during her freshman year, and is said by literary critics to possess very promising qualities in the art of composition.

The regular monthly meeting of the King's Daughters circle will be held with Mrs. J. W. Ireland on next week Tuesday.

Rev. J. C. Alford's sermon on Sunday morning will be on the theme of W. E. Hendley's poem, "Out of the light that covers me," by request. The poem was sung at the Woman's club by Rev. Alfred Stone, of Concord Junction, at home day.

F. T. Hancham, the new owner of Dell Dale farm, has been in Vermont the past week, looking for cattle with which to stock his farm.

T. J. Mannon is slowly recovering from a relapse of the gripe, which has kept him housed and under the doctor's care the past two weeks. Miss Hazel Mannon has also been sick with the gripe for the past week.

The next meeting of the Woman's club will be held on February 12.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Parker are in the class of gripe graduates. Mrs. J. A. Kimball was also one of the number.

Rev. G. M. Missian of Boxborough, will address the people at the Congregational church on Sunday evening on "Armenia, the ever-suffering servant of christianity."

A full house, an enthusiastic audience, and stimulating discussions of "The church and the school," characterized the Sunday evening meeting of the Congregational society this last week.

A splendid musical service by Mrs. A. P. Gardner and the quartet, and an excellent sermon by the pastor marked the Sunday morning meeting at the Congregational church and contributed much in the way of spiritual uplift.

Rev. Oliver J. Fairfield will preach Sunday morning the closing sermon in the series announced on the distinguished characteristics of Unitarianism, his special topic being "Character, rather than belief or profession, the decisive test in our religion."

Interesting Sketch.
The Boston Globe of January 28 contains a picture familiar to many Littleton readers—that of Dr. Edward M. Hartwell, statistician of the city of Boston, accompanying an article on the referendum written by M. E. Honesty. The initiative and referendum will be thoroughly discussed in the coming constitutional convention without doubt. Most politicians seem to think that it is an importation from the Swiss cantons, which they like to picture as enjoying the purest form of democratic government of any country under the sun. The establishment of the initiative and referendum in this state, through constitutional enactment would be neither a novel revolutionary idea, nor a historical standpoint, claim those who have made an investigation of the subject.

From the very first the colonists insisted on the right of participation in the making of laws for that right, as they did for the privilege of passing on the laws made for them. Mr. Honesty says that no other man in Massachusetts has done more for the referendum in Boston and Massachusetts than the careful study that Dr. Hartwell, head of the statistics department of Boston, has. Dr. Hartwell recognizes all over the country as one of the ablest men in his line.

Referendum is a borrowed word, which has gained currency in our political vocabulary only recently, but the practice of referring constitutional questions to the voters of Massachusetts by the legislature is an old one. It was first used in 1780, when the Plymouth colony adopted its first code of laws, referring to the people for adoption, to more recent times.

A hundred Back Log club members were made happy last week Thursday night by the novel entertainment given by the Newtown committee. N. H. Whitcomb, master of ceremonies, announced an indoor meet. The contestants, Stacy C. Bates, Ivo Russell, Winthrop Kelley, Eugene Esten, George Hartwell and Harold Whitcomb, three in orange and three in green caps, performed a series of stunts that kept the audience in convulsions of laughter. The judges were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sheed and Mrs. G. W. Prouty. A musical program was given by Mrs. Jessie Young, pianist; Elliott Young, clarinetist; Miss Russell, of Leominster, soprano soloist, and Miss Rebekah Millet, accompanist. All of which was heartily enjoyed by the audience, for it was a very special part of the enjoyment, for a variety of delicacies proved as amusing as toothsome in response to the request for a pound of something ready to eat for each member. The entertainment will go on record as one of the most clever in the calendar for the season.

Newtown Night.

WANTED—Small place, two to ten acres; good water supply and drainage; must be near R. R. station or electric. Price must be low. Address, "H. M.," Littleton, Mass.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

WHITE MOUNTAIN BRAND SEEDS

Include— Timothy, Redtop, Clovers—Red, White, Alsike or Mammoth, Alfalfa, Lawn Grass, Oats; 2 row and 6 row Barley; Spring and Winter Rye, Etc.

All are strong growing clean seeds. Each variety representing the very best of its kind and season.

Yielders of big and profitable crops.

Inexpensive

THE HOLBROOK-MARSHALL CO. Wholesale Distributors Nashua, N. H.

CANDY

Krispy Kups Social Whirls Horsehoond Squares Peanut Butter Kisses Assorted Mints Peach Blossoms Preserved Ginger Molasses Kisses Peanut Brittle Nonpareils ASSORTED CHOCOLATES Salted Peanuts

80-VARIETIES-80

AYER VARIETY STORE Telephone Connection

SELECTING SEED CORN.
Are you going to wait till spring to pick out seed ears for your next corn crop? Although this may be a custom, the experience of the most successful growers shows that seed selected from standing corn in the fall yields more than corn taken from the shock or crib. By fall selection the best ears growing under ordinary conditions may be chosen. By selecting seed either at husking time or from the crib the grower picks out ears that grow on unusually fertile spots or often with a single plant in a hill. The Ohio experiment station has obtained gains in yield of more than three bushels per acre by selecting seed in the fall from standing corn.

RAISING DRUG PLANTS.
Culture is a Distinct Specialty and Not Generally Profitable.
[Prepared by United States department of agriculture.]

Although many drugs, spices and oils consumed in this country in large amounts in the aggregate have risen abnormally in price because war conditions have interfered with their importation, it does not follow, drug plant specialists of the United States department of agriculture are pointing out, that profit will accrue to any one who may undertake to produce the drug plants domestically. The culture of such plants is as distinct a specialty as the growing of choice flowers to supply the fancy floral trade. It is questionable whether persons even highly skilled in producing staple crops could acquire easily the special knowledge necessary to the successful production of drug plants.

Of even greater importance, however, is the fact that the total amount of drug plants that can be consumed in this country in any year is very small compared with our consumption of any of the staple crops. Overproduction in the case of drugs is more serious than in the case of staple crops because staple crops such as corn and grain if not sold can be used at home for food or for feeding stock or chickens. The drug plant, however, is worthless to the grower unless a drug manufacturer will buy it for use in medicine.

CORNSTALK DISEASES.

Rotation of Corn Advocated by Iowa Experiment Station.

Diseases of cornstalks and roots cost Iowa millions annually. That is the reason the Iowa experiment station recently published a bulletin on cornstalks and corn root disease. The station discovered a new disease which is characterized by falling of corn where the stalks were broken close to the joints. Such plants contained only small ears or they were barren. When a farmer's attention was called to this condition the stalks were blown over by the wind or that the trouble was caused by the corn root louse or corn root worm. The disease attacks roots, stalks and the ears. It has not been determined whether all of these diseases are caused by the same organism or not. In many fields the corn was broken off just below or above the joint. The pith or soft material in the cornstalks was destroyed and was brownish or in some cases reddish in color. The fibers were soft and easily broken off. The station discovered three kinds of molds attacking the kernels, husks and cobs.

The only rational treatment is rotation of corn. Corn should never follow corn where this disease exists, since the fungus remains where the corn is planted in the same field the next year. Young plants will become infected. It is a wise plan to treat corn with formalin at the rate of one pint to forty-five gallons of water for fifteen minutes. The Iowa station received numerous complaints last year in regard to a disease in cattle which goes under the name of cornstalk disease, or forage poisoning. It was so severe that some veterinarians advised not to feed cornstalks. While it is not known that the fungus here described is connected with this disease in cattle, due to feeding on moldy corn and fodder, there are good grounds for believing that these molds are toxic.

For Dipping Hogs.
This is the cement constructed hog dipping vat recommended by the Wisconsin experiment station. It has a chute at either end, and there is a return drain apron at the end where the hogs come up out of the dip. By holding them on this incline for a few minutes a great deal of the dip is saved by running off them and into the tank. The vat proper is sixteen inches wide at the bottom, twenty-four inches wide at the top and four feet deep. It is ten feet long.

Weeds Use Water.
A large weed may use as much as a barrel of water. A plant weighing one pound when dried has used up 700 to 800 pounds of water in making its growth or seventy to eighty gallons, making nearly two barrels. From this it is plain that cutting down weeds is a very good way of saving moisture for the crop.

WHY THEY WIN
The largest crops come from natural fertilizers. Lowell Animal Fertilizers are made of BONE, BLOOD, MEAT and high grade chemicals—nature's food. Always active, they feed the crop with nutrition enough to keep the soil rich and productive. War has cut off the supply of Potash, but you can grow abundant crops without potash. Ask for proof from men who know, and write us for booklet, "Producing Profitable Products."
LOWELL FERTILIZER CO., Boston, Mass.
Branch of Occidental Fertilizer Co.

LOWELL ANIMAL FERTILIZERS
Made from BONE BLOOD and MEAT
A Wired Home is Within the Reach of All
No matter how small and inexpensive your home, you can give yourself all the conveniences and comforts of the most costly residences at surprisingly small cost. You can wire a few rooms if you wish, the charge depends absolutely upon how much you wish done. Take advantage of our House Wiring Offer before higher prices come.
Call at our office or phone 133-3.

AYER ELECTRIC LIGHT CO. BARRY BUILDING AYER, MASS.
This advertisement is one of a series designed to effect closer cooperation between the company and its subscribers. There are three parties to a telephone call—the person calling, the person called, and the operator who connects them. The quality of service rendered is determined by the spirit in which all three work together, rather than by the individual effort of any one or two of these three persons. We shall gladly send complete sets of the series to those desiring them.

Don't Guess--Know!
"Do you remember what Smith's telephone number is?"
"It seems to me it is 3621."
"No, that doesn't sound like it—I think it is 2631—I'll try that."
So the call was made without referring to the directory which lay beside the questioner. And the wrong connection was made, because the right number was not what either of the speakers guessed—it was 3261.
This illustrates one frequent cause of wrong numbers, namely, the transposition of digits in the guessing of numbers. It is so easy to do this that we ask our operators to repeat each call distinctly, so that they may be corrected in any errors due to misunderstanding.
There should be no guessing when a telephone number is wanted. There are only two ways to get the correct number: one way is by looking in the directory. If, on looking in the directory, you cannot find the name of the person with whom you wish to speak, then you should ask for the Information Operator at the desired exchange, and she will give you the number from her records.
NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY
H. F. JACKSON, Manager.

Ralph H. Wylie, Langdon Prouty DENTIST
Successor to Charles F. Flagg
Insurance Agent and Broker
Fire, Automobile, Liability, Farm Property and Accident Policies Placed in the Most Reliable Companies at Lowest Rates
Littleton, Mass. Telephone 30 3m14

The Shaker, Weave Shop
are taking orders now for spring delivery on my regular line of Rugs, Portieres, Pillow and Couch Covers in fancy and plain weaves; also, Superior Hammocks and Lap Robes. See me for work which you wish to express your own individuality. I furnish patterns which will not be duplicated for anyone else.
Call or address MRS. IDA SMITH DREYER, Shaker Village, Ayer, Mass. 3m11

GEO. E. FELCH FLORIST
Designs a Specialty
AYER, MASS.
PLANTS SHRUBS



GROTON

Town Development. Prof. F. A. Cushing Smith, director of civic improvement, Massachusetts Agricultural college, has paid several visits to Groton in the past year, and visited the largest parks and the improved land at the intersections of our roads, the playgrounds at the Center and at West Groton, and the grounds around the Tarbell and Burwell school buildings. He has also conferred with the selectmen, and with some of the park commission, and of the park committee of the civic section of the Groton Women's club. His plan for the improvement of the grounds around the town hall has been accepted. Prof. Smith kindly offered to prepare the following report, that the citizens may consider his as well as other plans in connection with the question of improving our parks, which will make our town more beautiful and attractive.

The town of Groton, one of the oldest towns in Massachusetts, has from the earliest days been a center of cultural and aesthetic inspiration, to which center have been attracted educational institutions of which the citizens of Groton have every reason to be proud. Groton's natural beauty of environment and site, the tree-lined streets and neat, well-maintained public buildings, has ever made Groton a long to be remembered town among even the chance travelers.

While Groton has grown in the past years, and while the population today is more or less stable and made up almost entirely of property owners, the town has not appreciated the value of a clean, well-administered town government and of attractive residences, there are those who may eventually be the future citizens whose homes are now centered in the home town, because of business cares elsewhere. It is to reach these men and women whose number is, I hope, small, that this article has been prepared by the writer.

As extension advisor in rural civic planning from Massachusetts Agricultural college, the writer has visited the town several times, addressed the members of the Women's club in open session upon a program for town improvement to be carried out during the next five or ten years. It is hoped that in this report enumerated may do much to direct the energies of the townspeople along lines which will permit the adoption of a comprehensive scheme for the future.

The natural beauties of the town site need scarcely to be noted but must ever be considered, preserved and enhanced if possible in any steps toward town development and improvement. Above all should the residential character of the town be maintained and the delightful contrast displayed between the wooded roads of Groton and the paved streets and carefully constructed gutters and curbs of larger towns and cities be assiduously adhered to.

It is the impression which the chance traveler receives as he enters Groton at the railroad station or when in the impression which he is apt to take away with him. The station is itself an attractive enough but what of its surroundings? Do the large expanses of macadam or cinders and the lesser small green lawn and a few shrubs seem to be quite in keeping with the progressive town of Groton?

Of the public school buildings only words of praise can be given, particularly to those responsible for the erection of the Boutwell school in Groton and the Tarbell school in West Groton. Grading about the Boutwell school has been progressing well during the past year, but money badly needed to provide the necessary blackboards and apparatus should also be purchased and shipped with which the children would be able to play. Some boys and teachers are ever fascinating to children of that age. A definite boundary fence or hedge would also provide a line of demarcation and make the lot much more attractive.

In the case of the Tarbell school at West Groton, while the building in itself is very good, it has been set at too great a distance from the town. The structure architecturally. It is to be hoped that steps may be taken soon to carry out necessary grading and that a windbreak of evergreen trees may be planted along the north boundary.

About the Chaplin school there is a chance for some hardy native plants, and a small playground could easily be provided. The grounds about both the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Gardening and about the Groton School for boys are most attractive and the tracts will always be well cared for. All the Lawrence academy grounds are beautiful and uninteresting except for the magnificent elms which tower high above even the largest buildings. It would be well to have some of the evergreen trees which would do much to relieve the bareness of this tract in both summer and in winter.

At the high school a new drive approach to the building has been given a background and tied to the ground more than now seems to be the case. At the suggestion of the writer the town should give the authority to proceed with planting and grading plans for the town hall site, and the planting and wall construction with the school building. The writer hopes when these shrubs, trees and vines have been set out, that the citizens will be too proud of the appearance of the structure to long perpetuate the present facade with gaudy circulars and announcements of the local moving picture show. The public library, a little architectural gem, suffers much from a lack of a background of large elms and a few dwarf evergreen trees toward the front.

and controlled, a factor which is too often ignored and of which if not well handled leads to accidents, dissatisfaction and a subsequent abandonment of a most deserving public service. A playground which is not to be under the direction of a layman, organizer and director had better never be launched.

Another matter not mentioned in connection with the schools, which cannot often be emphasized, is that of the educational and recreational sides, is that of the school and home gardens. A town such as Groton owes much to the younger generation and what more priceless heritage can you give your children than the knowledge of the productive powers of the earth, the love of even the tiniest flower or fruit, and the puzzling avocations of the worms and insects, bees and birds which can be known only by constant association with God's great outdoors.

Groton's greatest opportunity, one in which nature has greatly blessed the town, is in the parks, the commons, and the fields of the vicinity. While much has been accomplished in the past with necessarily limited funds, much more can be aspired to as a program, the final completion of which may be the work of a generation.

The small triangles and commons in Groton, it is hoped, will be designed to appeal and be most attractive at a definite season of the year. Thus an effect which will be desirable in one common will in turn be found upon another during the summer. A third may have unheard of delights in the fall, with a brilliant foliage vying with another. A fourth, by the judicious planting of dwarf evergreen trees will form a spot of verdant color even during the snows of winter.

The writer also feels that the triangle on the road toward the Groton School, known as the Moors park, should be acquired by the town for public purposes. There is a naturally beautiful spot covered with a fine stand of second growth timber. These trees could be judiciously thinned and a large area left as a naturalistic park. A dangerous curve could also be eliminated at this point by the cutting back and regrading of the bank at the side of the road and by the revival of some of the planting which over-hangs the way.

In the case of the central commons in which are placed the drinking fountain, bandstand, three or four roads and the water tower, the planting of numerous poles and wires which are decidedly eye-sore to the public, the writer would recommend (1) that the poles be removed from the center of the green; (2) that one or more of the drives be eliminated; (3) that the drinking fountain have a better setting of foliage; (4) that the water tower be usually removed from this site to one in which more room would be available for the hearers; (5) that the green be restored so far as possible to its original state, with the trees to be planted in definite locations. There can be no reason set forth for ruining the beauty of these little public tracts.

In the town, not even when it may seem to be to the good of one or more citizens. The writer cannot impress too strongly upon the citizens of the town the importance of the investigation for park purposes of the shores of the Nashua and the Squannocook rivers for the beginning of a parkway. Most of this land at present sadly neglected will eventually be the property of individuals who have no thought of the utilization of the water supply for commercial purposes or for their own private interests. Now is the time to acquire the land which may be developed with drives and walks, plantations added which will make so far as possible a naturalistic park to attract the birds and the children of the town. The trees could be designated an arboretum of native material, including trees, shrubs and water-loving ferns, grasses and wild flowers, and the preservation of the early flora of great botanical value to all schools and to lovers of the native grown plants of Massachusetts.

In what we may bespeak the hearty support of the citizens of Groton and their co-operation with the selectmen and others vitally interested in the future of the town, in all steps which will make a grade of improvement in the appearance and livableness of an already remarkably neatly maintained and attractive community. Needless to say, the neatly maintained and attractive planted parks in a town reflect the thrift and interest of the homes of the vicinity. Let us do all in our power to support measures which will make a grade of improvement in the appearance and livableness of an already remarkably neatly maintained and attractive community.

According to the records, 1902 was rather a sterile year. We read that the band was organized at the Baptist church, 115, G. A. R., at Littleton and Groton on Friday, May 30. There was also the customary Fourth of July and cattle show jobs. The annual cattle show of Groton was held on Tuesday, September 23, at Hazel Grove park that year. It is recorded in the band's record book that the band had twenty-two musicians within its ranks at that time. The band was usually large number for a country band. The band also played for St. Mary's picnic in Ayer on Labor day, which fell on Monday, September 1. Secondarily, it seems to have been Charles Hadden, who that city was popular up to about 1900, after which it gradually died out.

On Monday evening December 6, 1902, the band met for rehearsal and chose the following officers: James Hywater, president; Norman D. Shattuck, teacher; James P. Fitch, second leader; Amos L. Ames, clerk and treasurer; Charles Hadden, secretary; Arthur Woods, standing committee.

The events best remembered in 1902 are the trips down Boston harbor on the fishing steamer King Philip, which the band took two Sundays in August. The band was engaged to furnish music upon the boat and he took the Ayer and Groton bands and an orchestra on different Sundays. The band went to Ayer by barge and took the early train for Boston. In Boston they proceeded at once to the wharf where a half hour's concert was given before the steamer sailed. The day was spent in alternately playing and fishing, except by a few "land-lubbers" who spent it in misery.

Thomas Donahue says that the general cry, if the fish didn't bite was "Move the boat," and Arthur Woods says he has never forgotten the trip, which was of dogfish flying through the air in all directions. After the return to the wharf in the evening the band went to the Crawford hotel, where they had a very enjoyable evening. The band was engaged to furnish music at each concert, which was introduced by Mr. Donahue, which has been maintained up to the present and will, we hope, be continued.

Mr. Donahue is as enthusiastic now as he was at the start and regrets that he has not the opportunity to go to a neighboring city to study clarinet this winter. We need three or four more clarinet players in the band, and wish we could find fellows who would take

superiority lies in its universal appeal. Nothing is quite so inspiring as a good band playing in the open air. The above is the opinion of a professional musician and educator. Now let us see what one, to whom music is a hobby, says. I quote from Judge Henry A. Shattuck's delightful book, "The country band":

"In every assemblage of one hundred people, fifty at least will openly assert and profess an intense love of music, and band music in particular. Twenty-five of the remaining fifty will acknowledge a strong liking for it. Fifteen will say they don't care particularly for it, but they will enjoy it will be equally proud in allowing an intense dislike to it as merely an indifferent noise. Yet of this one hundred, at least one will attend every band concert and will stay until the last piece is finished.

"There is no other profession, business pursuit, or pleasure, the results of which are so thoroughly enjoyed by so large a percentage of people. This fact has long been recognized in European countries, particularly in Germany, and is now gradually being realized in large cities of our own country. But the short-sightedness of country towns and villages in this respect is to me inexplicable.

"Some argue that the quality of music furnished by amateur organizations is such as to deter well-meaning people of influence from exerting their influence in favor of public music. The fact is that in a country town the average ability of the American boy is, I believe, as good as that of the boys of any nationality, and in the majority of rural settlements there is no one who is behind German, Russian or Hungarians. I speak of these because I believe they furnish the largest proportion of our professional musicians in bands or orchestras, and because in their country far more attention is paid to music than in our own. But the blind and undisciplined use of a musical instrument is not of course to be commended, and the poorest results, whereas, if there were sufficient public interest in the instruction of novices and development of their gifts, the result would be what would commend itself to the whole people.

"It certainly is a great satisfaction to an amateur musician and an amateur organization, to feel that it is placing within reach of people who are unable to afford any of the pleasures of life the purest, simplest, and most enjoyable of all amusements. Let one who doubts this statement, attend a band concert given in a country town. Suppose it begins at eight o'clock. At seven o'clock a straggling procession of people, of all ages, all classes, and encumbered with children dragging at their skirts, is seen on every street leading to the public square.

"A half hour before the concert every plot of lawn or grass-ground around the square is pre-empted by men, women, and children. All the pipes who talk, crops, politics and matters of kindred interest. The women gossip, the children tumble and shriek with pleasure, while up and down the square the band and the promenading in couples, boys and girls, young men and women.

"One by one the bandsmen appear, conscious of their prominence, and the Adams, the chosen second leader, the bandstand, unfold their racks, uncase their instruments. The leader blows a tone, the members in turn kind of entertainment. He puts a back comfortable. The music is some difficulty with his snare, but at length all is ready and the music is distributed. A pause, the leader raises his baton and the band swells into the opening quickstep, and the concert is on.

"Every one goes home delighted with head or hands or feet. The quickest of the people wait on each of the pipes who talk, crops, politics and matters of kindred interest. The women gossip, the children tumble and shriek with pleasure, while up and down the square the band and the promenading in couples, boys and girls, young men and women.

"In 1901, yet the number of men taken out most of these engagements were unusually large. The record book, kept by Amos Ames, records that ninety-five men went on each of the King Philip trips, twenty-one men played at the concert on September 12, and at the Groton fair the band had twenty-four men.

The records say that on "Saturday evening, December 12, 1902, band met for rehearsal and choice of officers." The officers chosen were the same as in the previous year, except that Henry Adams was chosen second leader in place of Mr. Fitch. At this same meeting the following committee were chosen to see about getting up some kind of entertainment. He put a back comfortable. The music is some difficulty with his snare, but at length all is ready and the music is distributed. A pause, the leader raises his baton and the band swells into the opening quickstep, and the concert is on.

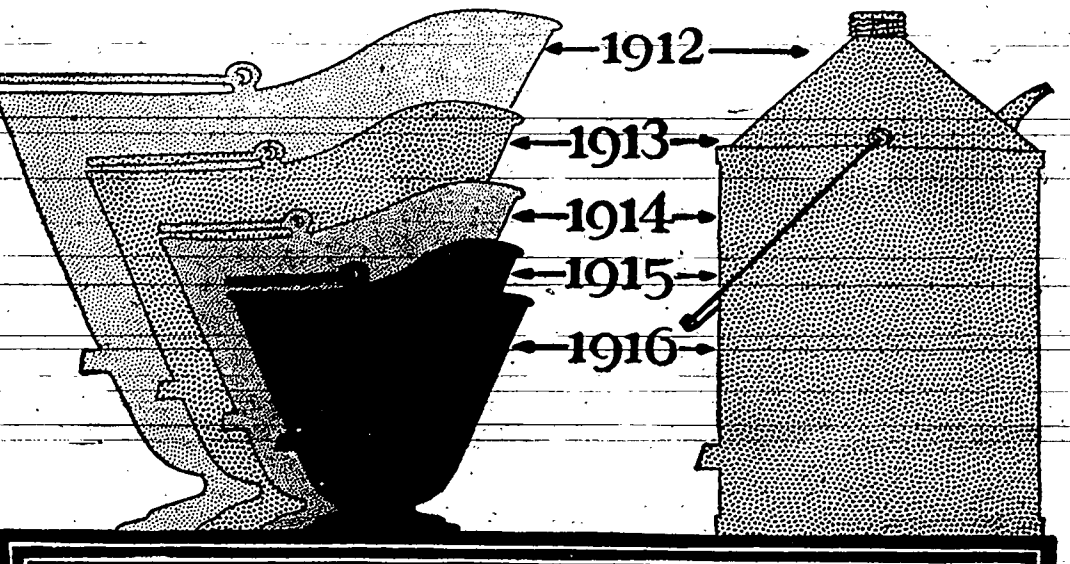
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And it's still shrinking

THE coal-hod now holds less for the money than it has at any time since the 1904 strike. Prices for domestic sizes range from \$12 a ton to 15 cents a pailful—if you buy in small quantities. Save money—burn

SOCONY KEROSENE

SOCONY Kerosene is about where it has been for years—an average of 10 to 15-cents a gallon. Burned in a Perfection Oil Heater, you get 10 hours of comfort from every gallon.

Not a cent's worth of fuel is wasted. A Perfection is on when you want it and off when you don't. Carry it upstairs, downstairs, wherever extra heat is needed. No coal; no dirt; no ashes.

Say SOCONY to the grocer's boy.



STANDARD OIL CO. of NEW YORK (Principal Offices) New York Albany Buffalo Boston

WHY THE EYES ARE STRAINED AT MOVIES.—Physicians are constantly advising patrons of the movies to protect their eyes. A writer in the Journal of the American Medical association tells why "eye strain" is produced and how to obviate it. "The progress made in the character of subjects presented in the movies today makes it desirable for all inquiring people to at least attend occasionally," he says. "Annoying after-effects from the eyes of many prevent them from enjoying the social diversion—and often the educational advantages thus derived. The great majority of those who suffer from eye strain after watching moving pictures can find much, if not complete, relief in perfectly fitted glasses. The picture may not be quite so sharp, but this is more than compensated for by the increased comfort.

TEST FOR CLOTHS.

How to Tell if Cottons Hide in Your New Wool Suit.

To test silk-bolt—the sample in 5 per cent solution of caustic potash for fifteen minutes. If the silk is pure the fabric will be practically destroyed, leaving but a small residue like paper ashes. If there is cotton in the cotton will remain. Another excellent test is to remove the threads which form the warp and the wool. Keep these separately and test them in strong hydrochloric or sulphuric acid. If they are pure silk the threads will dissolve within two minutes. If there is either wool or cotton in the fabric the threads will remain unaffected.

Pure woolsens are adulterated even more than silk because they are in greater demand and also because they are quite easy to imitate. Many a yard of cloth sold as "pure wool" contains from 30 to 60 per cent cotton. Blankets sold as "half wool" have frequently been found to contain only 10 per cent of pure wool. There are machines today which cleverly wrap wool around cotton threads, and the finished product has every appearance of being all wool. Another method of adulterating is by taking cotton cloth and "feeling" short wool threads upon its surface by means of heat, moisture and pressure.

A purchaser may be fully convinced from the appearance and feeling of cloth that it is all wool, but the only safe method is to take home the sample and make tests. Immerse the sample of so called wool in oil of vitriol for about two minutes. This will destroy the cotton, but the wool will not be affected. Another test is to moisten a sample with 50 per cent nitric acid. This will turn the wool yellow, but the cotton will retain its color.

Use the same tests for linens that you do for woolsens. If the sample is genuine linen it will not be affected by oil of vitriol, but any cotton that is in it will be destroyed. Imitation damask is made today by means of printing upon the surface, with a sort of transparent mullage, the designs. These designs appear to be woven into the cloth. By immersing a sample in boiling hot water and allowing it to boil for several minutes the design will disappear.

HOUSE PLANTS.

How to Take Care of Them When Potted.

To make ferns grow better—place some thin pieces of raw beef close to the inside of the pot, between the pot and the soil. Save your leftover coffee and dilute with cold water. Use this to water your ferns and it will act as a fertilizer. If an asparagus fern turns yellow, report it, giving it a strong loam enriched with one-fifth very old and finely crumbled manure and add a little coarse sand. Give the fern an hour or two of sunlight each day. Water when it looks dry, but do not let it stand in any water that may have run through into the saucer.

To destroy aphids, shower foliage of infested plant on both sides with strong tobacco tea, or, if the plant be small enough, immerse it in this tea. Insects in the earth of a potted plant may be destroyed by pouring over the soil a glass of water in which a pinch of mustard has been stirred.

How to Keep Plants Fresh While You're Away From Home Awhile.

There is a simple way to water ferns and flowers which will be of interest to one who must leave them for a time without care. Take a washing tub and place three or four bricks in it and put about two inches of water in the tub. Place the flowers on these bricks and place the tub where they can get the morning sunshine.

the liking to this instrument which, Mr. Donahue says.

C. Ford came into the band in 1901, playing bass drum just one season, while William Gale was enjoying his thirtieth year.

L. Clough, cousin to Charles Hadden, played snare drum for the season of 1904. He did not live in Groton and never was a regular member of the band.

The W. C. T. U. met at the home of Mrs. George E. Jones on Friday afternoon last. The attendance was not large as was hoped for, owing no doubt, to the unfavorable weather conditions, but a very interesting and enthusiastic meeting was held. The report from the county convention was read and the delegates were all home and unable to attend, other business of interest and importance was taken up. As has been the custom for several years it was voted to have a social evening at the town meeting in March and Mrs. Mary E. Kinney was chosen to take charge of it and choose her assistants. Other committees were chosen as was deemed necessary. The next meeting was appointed to meet with Mrs. Jones on Friday afternoon, February 9, at two o'clock.

The mid-week meetings of the Congregational church, usually held on Wednesday evenings have been changed to Friday evening and the hour from 7 to 7:30 o'clock, in order to better accommodate the new pastor, Rev. Daniel A. Whitson, who has been called to the pastorate here and cannot get here any earlier. He was present and took charge of the meeting on last Friday evening and made a very interesting talk. At the business session the executive committee reported the extent of the damage to the parsonage by the recent fire, and also that the insurance company had refused their liability. It was voted to give the committee the right to make such repairs as in their opinion were deemed necessary. As the defective chimney was thought to be the cause of the fire it was decided that there should be a new one built as soon as weather conditions will permit. Also, painting, papering, etc., as needed.

Last Saturday evening the public listened to a very interesting illustrated lecture of informal talk by Charles T. Crocker, M. C., more familiarly known as "Tom Crocker," of Fitchburg, upon his life and experiences in the European war zone. The pictures were fine, the talk much more interesting, coming as it did from a young man from our own vicinity who had seen and experienced everything of which he told, and therefore knew whereof he spoke. He invited his hearers to ask questions at any time or upon any picture they saw, as he would gladly answer them, and many in the audience took advantage of the privilege. Mr. Crocker very kindly answered all. At the close of the lecture nearly everyone accepted his invitation to examine many of the souvenirs he brought back with him.

Norman G. Bigelow has been appointed by the selectmen as registrar of voters, to take the place of John Woodbridge, who resigned when he was elected representative. At eight o'clock on the evening of February 10

there will be a hearing on the petition of the electric light board for location of poles on Whiting street and the extension of the line to Goodrichville.

The ice crop has been harvested in good time—many houses having been filled with an excellent quality of ice ranging in thickness from 12 to 16 inches, and with less casualties than usual. It is now thought there will be no ice in the next week.

Thomas P. Whitney is seriously ill with double pneumonia at his home on Burrage street in the southeast part of the town.

Harrison Rugg, while sitting at his desk in the office of the Fitchburg Sentinel last week Friday, suddenly lost consciousness and fell forward. Others in the office saw that his condition was serious and he was immediately conveyed to the Burbank hospital. Saturday morning he regained consciousness and on Sunday he realized where he was, and in his lucid moments expressed a strong desire to return to his home in Lunenburg. The physician in charge thought it would be just as well to relieve his anxiety by granting his wish and he was brought home, where he is now in quite a feeble state from a nervous breakdown.

Mrs. H. A. Harley, who has been ill at her home for several days, was taken to the Burbank hospital last week Thursday for treatment. An X-ray was taken which showed her condition not quite as serious as had been feared, and gave her many reasons for much reason for encouragement.

WORMS EASILY REMOVED. Millions of worm-bait whines are treated and cured out to sea, he is probably suffering from worms. These parasites are not only a nuisance, but they are also a source of serious disease. Quickly and safely kill and remove the worms from your children's system with the new Worm-Killer. This potent and laxative in fact form quickly relieves the trouble and is not only safe, but it is also a good Worm-Killer at your Druggist, 25c.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. Worcester, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs at law and all other persons interested in the estate of NILES G. WILSON late of Harvard in said County, deceased. Whereas CHARLES A. JOHNSON administrator of the estate of said deceased, has presented to said Court his petition for license to sell at private sale in accordance with the order named in said petition, or upon such terms as may be adjudged best, the whole of a certain parcel of the real estate of said deceased for the payment of debts and charges of administration, and for other reasons set forth in said petition. And whereas it is the duty of said Court to hold a Probate Court to be held at Worcester, in said County, on the twentieth day of February, 1917, at which time and place the said petition shall be read and thereupon, to show cause, if any, why the same should not be granted. And said petitioner is ordered to serve this citation by delivering a copy thereof to each person interested in the estate fourteen days at least before said Court, or by publishing the same once in each week, for three successive weeks, in the Worcester Herald, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be one day at least before said Court. Witness, William T. Forbes, Esquire, Judge of said Court, this thirtieth day of January, 1917. HARRY H. ATWOOD, Register.



Fine White Goods

FOR WAISTS AND DRESSES

Embroidered Voiles, Lace Stripes, Voiles, Heavy Cord Stripes... GET YOUR SUMMER WHITE GOODS NOW... SHIRT WAISTS MARKED DOWN... JAP SILK WAISTS



Forewarned Is Forearmed

Let this be a warning to you. Freight congestion is becoming worse. To insure your receiving requirements of the following when you want them, orders should be placed now.

- I plan using the coming season: 10 tons Fertilizer, 100 lbs. Dry Lime Sulphur, 100 lbs. Lime Sulphur Solution, 100 lbs. Dry Arsenate of Lead, 100 Fruit Trees

Ayer Farmers' Co-Operative Exchange

G. B. SCHULTZ, Mgr.

farm on the lower Littleton road. After it Light refreshments will be served. Mrs. Sybil Storrs has returned to her home in Nashua after spending a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David B. Marsh.

Stationery In taking care of the usual after-Christmas correspondence it may be necessary for you to replenish your assortment of Stationery.

Wish to inform you that we have Stationery to suit all your needs. We have the latest styles, sizes and colors, in both Writing Paper and Correspondence Cards.

SPECIAL SALE One Week Only A carton of Lord Baltimore Linen, 24 sheets, 24 envelopes—value, 25c. Salesprice 19c

WILLIAM BROWN DRUGGIST Main Street Ayer, Mass.

GROTON

Those who are participating using electricity for lighting purposes or domestic uses should visit the picture show at the town hall on Friday evening, February 2, to see and hear the story of the trials and successes of the young men and women in the field of the results being the saving of time and money and the bringing of great comfort and happiness. This reel was kindly loaned by the Electric and Manufacturing Company and from outside reports should prove both amusing and interesting.

Dr. A. G. Kilbourn had a narrow escape from severe injury recently, at Mitchellville, when the motor of his car was driving skidded on the ice and struck a pine tree. The car was put out of commission and was badly wrecked.

The next meeting of the Middlesex Worcester Boston Orange will be held in Lunenburg on Thursday, February 8.

Mrs. B. J. Crowley's niece, Miss Dorothy Richardson, has entered St. Joseph's hospital, Nashua, N. H., where she is fitting herself to be a trained nurse.

Mr. and Mrs. James Frazer returned to Groton last week Thursday from an extended visit with relatives in Nova Scotia.

The Ladies' Alliance will hold their next meeting on Thursday afternoon, February 8, at the home of Mrs. Everett Gerrish at 2.30 o'clock. They will begin the reading together of Rev. Abraham M. Ribbans' book, "The Spirit of Christ."

The guest night of the Woman's club will be held in the town hall on Friday evening, February 9, at eight o'clock. The program will consist of the reading of "The Spirit of Christ" and three modern plays by modern writers.

The Red Cross meetings are being well attended. During the month of January 1330 sponges, 349 cushionets, 470 bandages, 26 vests, 7 mops, 1 muffer, 18 facial bandages, 7 pairs of stockings, 14 caps, 5 bed jackets have been sent to the American Fund for French Wounded at the last meeting.

Miss Naomi Gleason is enjoying a visit of a few weeks in Portland, Me., with relatives.

The annual town meeting will be held on Monday, February 5. The candidates for selectmen are W. H. Whitehill, Amos Ames and Frank H. Palmer. The candidates for school committee are Mrs. Mary H. Mansur, Stephen W. Sabine and Everett B. Gerrish.

Mrs. James' daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Cushing, of Groton, Boston, and a sister of Grafton D. Cushing, appeared Monday night in the famous French play, "The Pater Noster." In the cast were Mrs. James, Mrs. W. H. Sturges, "Did you have half your coat left Friday—groundhog day?"

Daniel Whalon who is employed by John Lawrence, has sold his colt to Benjamin Grenache, of East Pepperell.

Mrs. Lawrence Blood, of Court street, is entertaining her mother, Mrs. Baldwin, and sister, Miss Winnie Baldwin, of Pittsburg, this week.

Charles Shattuck, the noted checker player, visited the Groton club on Saturday and Sunday, playing 21 games, winning 12, losing 2 and 7 draws. He also played at the Lowell Checker club last Tuesday winning from two men, losing to one man and tying with one.

Mrs. Solon Dodge is staying with Mr. and Mrs. George Boynton.

At the Eastern Star installation in Ayer last week Wednesday evening about two hundred members of the club were present. Mrs. George Woods, Miss Fannie E. Woods and Mrs. Wallace Brown of Groton, Mrs. Louise G. Crafts of Northampton were the installing officers. After the installation and addresses by the visitors a fine entertainment was enjoyed.

Mr. and Mrs. Percival J. Benedict announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Margaret Lillian, to John Lloyd Cough of West Brookfield. One day this week three logs containing 1800 feet, one pine log, 12 ft. long, contained 750 ft.

dies went to Miss Clara Robinson; first prize for the gentlemen, Malcolm Wood; consolation prizes to Miss Ruth Blood and Herbert Huebner.

Mrs. A. J. Clough came near having a serious accident on Tuesday of this week, when she fell on the stone steps of the academy, bruising herself considerably.

There will be a Parent-Teachers' meeting on Tuesday, February 6, at the high school building at 3.45. Dr. Francis A. Finnegan of Pittsburg will speak on a health school children.

Please note that the meeting is on Tuesday instead of Wednesday as previously announced. All interested in our schools are cordially invited.

Groton lodge, I. O. O. F., will meet in Groton on Thursday evening, February 12. The first degree will be conferred on eight candidates.

Edward Duffey has accepted a position as chauffeur for E. O. Proctor of Ayer.

The annual Odd Fellows' ball will take place on Thursday evening, February 8, in the town hall. Newell's orchestra of Marlboro will furnish the music. The supper tickets will be advanced a small sum on account of the advanced price on turkeys.

Baptist church Sunday, February 4, morning worship at 10.30; subject, "The Lord's supper." Sunday school at twelve. A recent report of the Sunday school shows an increase in the number of scholars. All who do not attend elsewhere are cordially invited to meet with us. There are classes for all ages.

At seven, evening praise service; subject, "The Lord's supper." Wednesday evening at 7.30 meeting for prayer and praise. The special music on last Sunday morning was enjoyed by all present. The Ladies' Missionary society held their regular meeting in the church parlor on Friday afternoon with a good number present.

Other Groton matter will be found on page three.

Wednesday afternoon, January 31, was devoted to the work of the year and the sixteen members of the Neighborhood club, who met at the home of Mrs. Arthur Sargent, enjoyed a most delightful refreshment. The afternoon program closed by singing the club song.

Miss Aggie Lewis, who has been spending the winter with friends in Clinton, is in town for a few days.

Arthur H. Mason of Groton, formerly with the E. F. Ricker Rubber Company, has accepted a position as salesman for the Firestone Tire Company, traveling from their Boston branch. Mr. Mason left Saturday for Akron, Ohio, where he will spend a few weeks at the Firestone factory.

Herbert Taylor, tree warden, with his men are thinning trees and cutting underbrush on the sides of the cross road running between the Boston road and the main road. The work of clearing extends back from each side of the road for about twenty-five feet and is done under the direction of the district superintendent.

The Boy Scouts will hold a public exhibition of scout work on Saturday evening, February 11, at the town hall. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

John J. Denahy, foreman at the Lowellhorpe school, has bought the land and suit of Marshall Southworth on the Boston road.

Several sleighing parties from neighboring towns have passed through our village this week, making their presence known by bells and horns.

Miss Naomi Gleason is enjoying a visit of a few weeks in Portland, Me., with relatives.

walk from Hollis street to the Grange hall; raise and appropriate \$300 to extend the sidewalk on Whiting avenue to West street; raise and appropriate \$2000 toward building a state road on the Boston road from the end of Magdalen road to town line, provided the state will build it and assume the rest of the expense; to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sufficient sum to either cut away the bank at the turn on Culver's hill, Ayer road, enough to give an unobstructed view of the remainder of the hill and thereby lessen the danger of accident, or cut a new road through the bank along the line of telephone poles, thus lessening the curve and doing away with the present obstructed view.

Death. A name respected and loved by a wide circle of friends was that of Mrs. Elizabeth Loretta Dresser, who passed peacefully beyond the grave evening at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George L. Boynton, on Pleasant street, at the age of 85 yrs. and 26 days. Her life was complete and her spirit returned to God. Although everything was done for her, her vitality gradually faded until she fell "asleep in Jesus, peaceful rest, whose waking is supremely blessed."

Mrs. Loretta (Barnard) Dresser was born in Waterford, Me., January 2, 1832. She was the last of six children. At the age of eighteen in the year 1850 she married a man, Henry F. Dresser, who was born in 1824. As a result of this union six children were born to them, one dying in infancy.

This devoted couple lived most of their life in Lovell, Me. and was spared to each other to reach their sixtieth wedding anniversary. At that time they did not celebrate the day. He died in the year 1910 at the age of eighty-six. Soon after Mrs. Dresser came to Groton and has been at her home for the past six years with her daughter, Mrs. Boynton.

Mrs. Dresser has enjoyed a remarkably active and healthy life. She was a devoted mother and a devoted wife. She was also a devoted friend and a devoted citizen. She was a member of the Baptist church and was very active in its work. She was also a member of the Ladies' Missionary society and was very active in its work.

On her birthday, January 2, she received many cards and tokens of her love and esteem. During the recent holiday season, even though she had been in bed for some time, she had recently been visiting in Maine, was weighing heavily upon her mind, she was ever busy with her handiwork, knitting and embroidery, for her many friends.

After a brief illness of two weeks the deceased suddenly took a change for the worse, rapidly sinking. The peaceful cause of death was heart failure, due to the infirmities of advancing years. She seemed to realize her approaching end, and by a touching word and a loving smile she survived by three children, William H. Dresser, who resides in Yarmouthville, Me., Mrs. Carrie L. Severson, of Los Angeles, Cal., and Mrs. George L. Boynton, of Groton. There are also eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. George M. Howe of Groton, very comforting in his remarks. There was a profusion of beautiful flowers from her many friends and relatives. There was no singing.

Mr. and Mrs. Boynton left town on Wednesday morning, taking the body to Lovell, Me., where services will be held at the home of Mrs. Dresser's nephew, directly opposite her and home. Interment will be in the family lot beside her husband.

Thoughtfulness for others and the constant message of tender affection were dominant traits that attended her ever and always.

Fifteenth Season. The school gardens have successfully finished their fifteenth season. This year there were three large school gardens, with fifty workers, and many home gardens. This was the first year to have a school garden in the United States. Besides raising seventy kinds of vegetables and twenty varieties of flowers, they have made prizes at school garden exhibits. The prizes were won in collections and as individuals. For collections, four first prizes, two second prizes, and three third prizes. As individuals, twenty first prizes, twenty-one second prizes and thirty-four third prizes were taken, making in all eighty-four prizes, which amounts to seventy dollars, which amounts to seventy dollars, which amounts to seventy dollars.

The scholars were especially fortunate in winning four prizes at Springfield in competition with all the North Atlantic States. Amherst sent twenty blue, red and white ribbons and nineteen green ribbons. The cup for the best home garden was won by Lawrence Lewis. As he has won it three successive years it now becomes his own. Bernard C. Lovell won the school garden cup for the second year.

Among those who competed at these exhibitions were children from Brockton, Waltham, Lynn, Fitchburg, Lowell, Methuen, and other towns. The Shirley Training School, Lunenburg, Leominster and all North Atlantic States.

Death. The body of Mrs. J. Watson Selva was brought to town Tuesday noon for burial. She was the widow of the late Capt. J. Watson Selva, who served in the civil war, and passed away several years ago. Her maiden name was Miss Annie M. Bartemus, one of six children. Much of the married life of this devoted couple was spent in Groton, N. Y., where after Mr. Selva's death she was a very successful school teacher, receiving a teacher's pension as a reward for her faithful service. She died in a sanitarium in Melrose, Saturday evening, January 27. Her age was 77 years, 9 months, 27 days.

The deceased was a great-granddaughter of Mr. Prudence C. Lovell, who was a descendant of the late Alva Wright of this town. Mrs. Selva was a daughter of the late George Bartemus, a son, her only child, Watson Selva, a school teacher in the state of Connecticut. She will be laid to rest in the family lot by the side of her husband.

Groton Military Training School. The following appointments have been announced: Priv. John Robinson and T. Gilman Smith, Jr. to be corporals; Priv. William L. Denahy to be sergeant; Corporal. The composition of the second platoon is now as follows: Lieut. Edward B. Branigan, commanding; Sergts. Lamb and Parker; 5th squad, Corp. Powell, Priv. E. Blood,

Bronnan, J. Lacos, A. Robinson, M. Robinson, E. Rand, Sweeney, file closer, Priv. Tupper; sixth squad, Corp. Malley, Priv. Bixby, DeRoche, DeRoche, Kalinin, V. Lacos, Herbert Wright, file closer, Corp. Robinson, Priv. Carey, Gleason, Hazleton, Hosmer, R. S. Lawrence, C. Thompson, E. Thompson.

At the drill on Wednesday evening the Groton attendance was 35 and the West Groton 21. The second platoon took up the advance to the attack and the advance during the first stage of the attack. The first platoon took up the advance during the second stage of the attack. The first platoon took up the advance during the third stage of the attack.

West Groton. James Moran, after suffering for a week or more with an illness, whose nature was not known, died on Tuesday, which gave relief.

Miss K. A. Tarbell and Mrs. M. E. Williams are among those suffering from the prevailing grippe cold.

Scarlet fever has again appeared in the village of West Groton. Mrs. Moran, seventh grade and her sister Dorothy of Groton High school are the victims. As there is no other case in this vicinity the source of contagion is puzzling.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jarvis are reported ill.

Willard Berlin is making a good recovery from his accident of last week.

Mrs. A. F. Bates is able this week to leave her bed and is steadily improving.

Miss Sylvia Lawrence, who has suffered from a severe cold, is now recovering from her illness.

Mrs. Charles Chapman and her daughter Marjorie spent Saturday and Sunday at G. H. Bixby's, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bixby. Mr. Chapman joined them on Sunday.

Miss Evadne Harrington was reported ill on Thursday.

Mrs. Albert L. Harrington and her grandson Francis are spending some weeks in Walpole.

Mrs. John Deane, though able to be about the house, is suffering from the effects of an operation some weeks ago.

Coming events in the near future are a supper, a minstrel show, a free lecture and a G. Paul Smith entertainment on the evenings of the 14, 16, 20 and 23 of February, respectively.

Mrs. Charles Bixby is the newly-elected superintendent of the Sunday school and is asking for volunteers for clerks.

The West Groton Scouts were beaten in a practice game at Groton School on Saturday. They are to play the Townsends on this Saturday on Quasson-tan pond, which is located on the Hill farm in this village.

The Ladies' Aid society met with Mrs. A. W. Lamb on Thursday afternoon. Eleven members being present. Mrs. A. F. Cottrell was the guest of the afternoon. The hostess was Miss Helen, youngest of the fold. The social half hour at the close, when dainty refreshments were served around a cheerful open fire, gave the members a most enjoyable afternoon.

Rev. and Mrs. Trowbridge left town on Thursday noon for Pittsfield, where they expect to reside for the present year. Their daughter, Mrs. C. H. C. Trowbridge, is now residing in Pittsfield.

of Mrs. Trowbridge as superintendent of the Sunday school and her helpfulness in all other departments of church life. The council adjourned after prayer by Rev. F. E. Mills.

BOXBOROUGH. Mrs. F. E. Mills. Mrs. F. E. Mills. Mrs. F. E. Mills.

News Items. Mrs. F. E. Mills. Mrs. F. E. Mills. Mrs. F. E. Mills.

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Light refreshments will be served. Mrs. Sybil Storrs has returned to her home in Nashua after spending a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David B. Marsh.

Mrs. Maria Eaton has been with Mrs. Royal this week, recovering from a slight illness.

The Woman's club presented the five-act comedy, "A rose of Plymouth town" to a full house on Thursday evening. The production of the play certainly showed careful and thorough preparation. The parts were all admirably taken, the interpretation of the characters being well given.

The young ladies' chorus will furnish the music at the Congregational church on Sunday morning. Mr. West has his plans made to spend the day with his daughter in Framingham.

There are four inmates at the farm. Its receipts and credits last year in the year ending December 31, 1916, were \$2,440.73, and the expenditures were \$4,003.30, leaving a net cost of \$1,562.57, which is \$39.64 for each inmate, or \$7.51 per week. In the old days the net cost was \$1.00 per inmate, and the cost per inmate \$4.00 per week.

The roads were in much better condition than a present and the appropriations for both poor and highways were smaller. Of course in these days of H. C. T. it is natural to look for relief to the "back to the farm" movement. When the overseers complete the "vast amounts of money" which they say the town has lavished on the farm in the past and then think how they doubled the number of horses in the town, it is not strange, perhaps, that they should have visions of a time when the farm will not only be self-supporting, but will reduce the tax rate.







TOWNSEND

Center. Prof. Forbush, of the Amherst Agricultural College extension department, gave very interesting lecture last week Friday afternoon to the ladies of the Townsend Hill Improvement society for the purpose of organizing a correspondence course in household science. Six of the ladies are to take the ten-week course. During the course other speakers from the college will come and address the ladies at their club house on the hill.

Mrs. Nellie B. Folkins, district deputy president, and suite, of Groton, installed the following officers of the E. A. Spaulding Rebekah lodge on Friday evening of last week in Odd Fellows hall: Mrs. Agnes M. Woods, n.g.; Mrs. Clara B. Hesolton, v.g.; Mrs. Mary E. Smith, sec.; Mrs. Harriet Savage, treas.; Mrs. Winnifred Elgerton, chap.; Mrs. Edna W. Lillian Ross, cond.; Mrs. Hattie Misner, r.a.n.g.; Mrs. Emma Lacey, l.a.n.g.; Mrs. Margaret Higgins, e.s.v.e.; Mrs. Clara Parry, l.s.v.e.; Mrs. Elizabeth Miller, Hester, l.o.g. Appointed officers were Mrs. Sadie E. Grey, n.a.s.; Miss Amy Kirkford, l.a.s.; Mrs. Icen Cowdry, plautist. After the installation a banquet was given at the banquet hall in charge of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Miller.

John E. Hallisey and Miss Hazel Burgess of this town were married on Saturday evening by Rev. Samuel D. Burgess at the residence of the bride. The ceremony was held at the parsonage in that city. The single ring service was used and the couple were unattended. The bride wore a gown of blue tulle silk. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Hallisey of Dudley road. The young couple will reside here.

Mrs. George H. Kendall spent the week-end at the home of her sister, Mrs. Fred Sawyer, at Sterling. George Eastman spent the week-end with his daughter, Mrs. Esther Seales, at Greenville, N. H.

Walter Wilder occupied the pulpit at the Baptist church, West Townsend, on Monday afternoon. Rev. Joseph MacKeen, who was ill with the grippe, Miss Hazel Richardson returned to Westfield Sunday to resume her duties Monday morning as teacher in the public schools.

Miss Carrie Walker of Townsend Hill attended the funeral of Mrs. Hannah B. (Searles) Woods held from her late home in Fitchburg Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Woods was a native of Townsend and the body was brought here for burial by the Salem Cadet orchestra.

Warren Tucker, of Billerica, was a guest of his daughter, Miss Estella Tucker, for the week-end. Mrs. Mervin Hodgman has been quite ill for several days, suffering from a severe attack of the grippe. George Beckwith has received an appointment by the selectmen of the town as public weigher.

The Heroine Of My Story By ESTHER VANDEVEER

SEND US YOUR Hams Shoulders AND Bacon FOR CURING

Harlow & Parsons Tel 130 AYER, MASS. Established 1875

All Over our store you will find Groceries that are fresh and up-to-the-minute in every respect and at prices that are often charged for goods of inferior quality.

Our Specialty is the Handling of the Very Best Vermont Butter and Cheese

EAST MAIN STREET GROCERY JAMES E. GRIFFIN, Proprietor East Main Street Ayer, Mass.

L. SHERWIN & CO AYER, MASS. DEALERS IN

Groceries Hardware Paints, Etc.

AMMUNITION FRUIT NUTS FIGS DATES CANDY

Always a Good Supply of Staple Goods on Hand

ELIZABETH PATTERSON MARINELLO TOILET PARLOR

Shampooing, Facial and Scalp Massage Try the Marinello Toilet Water, Perfumes, Parfumed Sachets, Creams of all kinds. 6 Pleasant St., Ayer. 1y21

Piano Tuning WILMOT B. CLEAVES Phone 20 HARVARD, MASS.

Graduate N. E. C. of Music, Boston 10 years with Collins Co., N. York Agent for Holton Band Instruments Pianos For Sale and Rent 1y13

SHIRLEY CASH MARKET WE HAVE FRESH FISH Every Thursday and Friday

Leave your order and we will give it our personal attention. Fresh Vegetables at all times. Agent for the Fitchburg Baking Co.; also, Drake's Cake, all varieties. Phone 4.

CHARLES A. MCCARTHY, Prop. N. A. SPENCER & SON

Wish to call your attention to their stock of GEMETERY MEMORIALS

which they would be pleased to have intending purchasers inspect and obtain prices.

PARK STREET Ayer, Mass. IT IS A FACT that the West Groton Blacksmith saves you money on Farm Wagons and Tip Carts. We build Wheels and make Stone Drags. 1y27

LITTLETON

Mrs. J. H. D. Whitcomb has been visiting her son Herbert, who was sick with the grippe at his home in Waterbury, Conn., and while there contracted the same disease.

Sitting at my desk one balmy spring morning, rather than work I looked out through the open window.

At a window opposite a woman looked up midway between twenty-five and thirty sat at a typewriter, writing letters from stenographic notes. She was dressed in mourning.

A sign of widowhood furnished food for a story that I was weaving, with her for the heroine. She was refined looking and comely. Quite likely her husband had left her in poverty, and she was eking out a miserable existence by hammering a typewriter from morning till night.

I wondered if the sleek looking man I saw in an adjoining room, who seemed to be the manager, had a wife and if he would not fall in love with the widow and make her comfortable. But when he arose from his desk and stood with his hands in his pockets looking out through the window I changed the direction of my romance and hoped if he did fall in love with the widow she would refuse him, because I did not like the expression on his face. There was something malignant in it.

My story seems to be coming out as I first planned it. While I was dreaming this afternoon, instead of attending to business, as I should have done, the man in the next room to the widow tapped a bell. The young widow arose and, taking up her stenographic implements, disappeared to reappear in his room. Taking a seat beside him, she took down several different dictations.

Then when she was about to leave he said something to her that caused her to resume her seat.

From his averted gaze and the expression on the man's face I knew that he was making love to her. And I also knew from something I knew not what—but any woman will understand what I mean—that there was no response to what he was saying. When he ceased to speak she arose and he took her hand, but she gently drew it away and, without a word, left the room. At her own window she faced me just long enough for me to see that she was not pleased.

I have now been watching the widow for a week, and it is evident that she can marry any of the men connected with the office she chooses, for they all seem to be in love with her. I don't blame them, for if I were a man, and not miserably poor, as I am, I would march straight over to the office where she works and propose to her myself.

What troubles me is that she won't do what I want her to do. I have heard from authors that their characters are at times very obstinate, and now I find a case in point. There is a man who I think would make her a good husband. He comes in to the office evidently on business and never fails to get a few words with her. She treats him with great consideration, but I can see from the expression of his face—he always faces the window when he talks to her—that her replies to what he says are disappointing.

This morning there was a scene between the manager and the widow. He said something to her that sent her out of his room. He followed her to her desk, where she was putting on her wraps, and he doubtless apologized, for she took off her hat, which she had put on, and was evidently pacified.

It is my opinion that the reason the widow won't marry any of her suitors is that her heart is buried in a grave. I wish she would marry my favorite, but she evidently gives him no encouragement. He stood in one of the windows facing me this morning, and I so longed to give him encouragement to persuade that I looked it, and I'm afraid I smiled.

I am very much displeased with myself. The widow's sutor at whom I smiled encouragement came into the office this morning, and I'm sure he made a pretense of business in order to see me. The manager brought him up to me and introduced him, saying to me that he had recommended me to the man as one who would do some work for him. The stranger was very polite and has a winning way.

I shall never make a novelist, that's certain. My story of the widow turned out entirely different from what I intended. It was all her fault. The man I wanted her to marry she would not have, and what do you think? I had to console him by marrying him myself. It seems that I was entirely mistaken in my assumptions with regard to him. He was a cousin of hers, though more like a brother. He says that he one day caught sight of me at my window—and after that used to come to see his cousin in order to see me. I tell him I can't swallow that.

But the widow, Fate was doing things without my knowledge. One morning a man in the uniform of an officer of merchant marine burst into her room and caught her in her arms. She seemed to be in a swoon for a time; then she cried over him and caressed him, and I was sure he was her husband come to life.

And so he was. His vessel had been wrecked somewhere on the African coast, and all on board had been either lost or made slaves. It was a long while before he attained his liberty, to learn that he had been reported dead.

That was the last I saw of his wife as a typewriter, though now we are great friends.

Good Health good appetite, good spirits—mean no discord in the body. To keep the organs in harmony—when there is need—use

BEECHAM'S PILLS Largest Sale of Any Medicine in the World. Sold everywhere. In boxes, 10c., 25c.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, creditors, and all other persons interested in the estate of NOAH WALACE, late of Townsend in said County, deceased, infestate.

A petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the estate of said deceased to PERCIVAL J. BENDICT, of Fitchburg, in the County of Worcester, or to some other suitable person.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court in said County of Middlesex, on the twenty-first day of February, A. D. 1917, at the clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be on any day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventeen.

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this thirty-first day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventeen. F. M. ESTY, Register.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, creditors, and all other persons interested in the estate of MARY M. NICKLESS, late of Shirley in said County, deceased, infestate.

Whereas, THOMAS L. HAZEN administrator of the estate of said deceased has presented to said Court his petition for the letters of administration on said estate, and the same has been granted, and the said petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be on any day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventeen.

Witness, Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this thirty-first day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventeen. F. M. ESTY, Register.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, creditors, and all other persons interested in the estate of ALICE M. WRIGHT, late of Littleton, in said County, deceased, infestate.

Whereas, a petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the estate of said deceased to CHARLES F. FLAGG, of Littleton, in the County of Middlesex, without giving a surety on his bond.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the thirty-first day of January, A. D. 1917, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in the Littleton-Guildon, a newspaper published in said County, the last publication to be on any day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventeen. F. M. ESTY, Register.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law, next of kin, creditors, and all other persons interested in the estate of MARGARET BENDICT, late of Groton in said County, deceased, infestate.

Whereas, a petition has been presented to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the estate of said deceased to PERCIVAL J. BENDICT, of Fitchburg, in the County of Worcester, without giving a surety on his bond.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the thirty-first day of February, A. D. 1917, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And the petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer, the last publication to be on any day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventeen. F. M. ESTY, Register.

AUGUSTUS LOVEJOY Insurance Agent and Broker Farm Property written; also all kinds of property placed in good steads completely. 24 East Main Street, Ayer

SHIRLEY

News Items. Mrs. Louise Livermore, who has been confined to her home with a hard cold, is improving.

The Girls' Sewing Guild of Trinity chapel held a pleasant meeting on Saturday afternoon with Miss Shirley Chapman. The next meeting will be held with Miss Mary Hobbs on Center road, Saturday afternoon, February 10.

Word was received on Wednesday that although Mrs. LePoer was still very ill, hopes were entertained of her recovery.

Frank Conant and family, who have been sick with the grippe and some of its attending complications, are far on the road to recovery. Mr. Conant was out for the first time since he was laid up on the 24th of January.

Flocks of birds that recently have been depreeding the shade trees at Maplelawn, have caused Mr. Robinett anxiety for the safety of his maples.

The woodlot formerly known as the Jonathan Pierce plain lot, and bought by Mr. Mead, of West Acton, has again been sold to Proctor Bros. of North Chelmsford.

The West Townsend orchestra party will be held in Seminary hall, Friday evening, February 2. The West Townsend orchestra of five pieces will play music for dancing.

The Ladies' Study club held their regular fortnightly meeting at Monday evening, January 29, at the home of Mrs. J. Ross, as through some misunderstanding the reading-room was not prepared for them.

The funeral of Mrs. Hannah (Searles) Woods took place at her late home on High street in Fitchburg, on Monday afternoon, January 29, at 10 o'clock.

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