

PROFESSOR PROVES THAT GIRLS WITH GOLDEN LOCKS ARE AS SEDATE AS BRUNETTES

New York, Dec. 13—Scores of the most popular superstitions and "unfounded beliefs," in which most persons hold an undying faith, have been exploded by two Columbia University professors, one of whom is human enough to waver at times and almost hold a superstition or two himself, says the Brooklyn Eagle.

The investigations which involved intensive research and consultation of authorities, dispell such time-worn beliefs as:

Blonds are more flighty than brunets.

A square jaw denotes a strong will power.

Fish is a good brain food.

Lightning cannot strike twice in the same place.

The research was done by Dr. Otis W. Caldwell and Dr. Gerhard E. Lundeen, of Teacher's College, and were disclosed by Dr. Caldwell today.

Standing in his office in the Institute of experimentation amidst volume upon volume of works on superstition and related subjects, Dr. Caldwell described himself as "evangelical" in his efforts to make people see the light in true scientific fashion.

Survey Is Basis

He declared that he desired his survey which took four years of investigation, to serve as a basis from which other workers in the field of anti-superstition might derive impetus for a more widespread attack in the interests of scientific truth.

Dr. Caldwell asserted, however, that the problem of getting people to see the light was one which "was so bound up with the personal equation" that the complete overthrow of superstition was well-nigh impossible.

"It is hard to get people to relinquish their pet beliefs," he said. "Even after the facts are presented to them, they often slip back to their superstitions in moments of stress."

"In fact I often have to catch myself from committing an act which is influenced by superstition which I know has no basis in fact from personal investigation."

He reported, however, that satisfactory progress toward a more enlightened attitude regarding superstitions on the part of students had been achieved by Dr. Lundeen and himself.

He asserted that children's belief in superstition were often the fault of parental teachings and said that his own children were never taught to believe in the Santa Claus legend.

Dr. Caldwell and Dr. Lundeen, with the aid of many assistants, presented their facts to students of high schools and colleges in both rural and metropolitan centres to determine the influence of knowledge upon superstitious belief.

They found in brief: That high school seniors in rural centres are more superstitious than the city students; that high school senior girls are more superstitious than high school senior boys in both rural and metropolitan centers. Also that college students are acquainted with more superstitions but are less superstitious than high school students; that college women are more readily influenced by these "unfounded beliefs" than college men.

Some "Facts"

Some interesting facts are set forth by the investigators in their survey, which they did not copyright, so that other workers in this field could have ready access to the material, and which they used to test several thousand children.

Discussing the belief that astrologers can "read a person's character and future in the stars" they declared:

Millions of dollars are paid to astrologers, numerologists, phrenologists and many other kinds of fortune tellers each year by the American people.

"It has been estimated that people of a single large city, such as New York or Chicago spend annually millions of dollars in this way because there is a strong desire to know the future."

"Any business which promises some degree of a financial reward may attract a number of quacks or racketeers who are ready to prey upon the uninformed. Astrology belongs to this class. It has attracted individuals who find it a way to get money easily by taking advantage of ignorant people."

With respect to the matter of brains and beauty the investigator reported that "the statement that brains and beauty go together is false. In fact the best scientific indications are that good intelligence and personal attractiveness have a tendency to go together."

"Is fish a brain food?" and the report runs: "The idea that fish is a especially a food for the brain is a common fallacy."

Some of the other conclusions follow:

"There is no basis for mental telepathy. You cannot make a person turn and look at you by staring at his back. You cannot determine a person's character by his features or facial characteristics."

"Persons with red hair are no more liable to be hot tempered than persons with any other colored hair. A high forehead in no way indicates superior intelligence. Long slender hands do not indicate an artistic nature."

"If it rains while it is sunny is no way of telling that it will rain the next day. Almanacs cannot successfully foretell the weather."

A GOOD TIME TO BUY WHEN PRICES ARE WAY DOWN

Wise Old Man Who Has
Lived Through Depres-
sions Hands Out Good
Advice.

(Bruce Barton in N. Y. Herald and Tribune)

There is a wild old gentleman in Chicago who has been a comfort to me during the last three years.

He has not made the common mistake of thinking that because he has lost some money the world is coming to an end. He never lets his own shadow blur his clear view of the facts. He sits in his chair and thinks, and by that activity, and the courage to back his judgment with his money, he has done well.

Some weeks ago, when wheat and corn were selling at the "record low of all time," he handed me a bunch of clippings from Middle West newspapers.

"They are burning corn for fuel in Iowa," he said. "Farmers are heating their houses with it."

"Well, I have been buying a few thousand bushels of corn," he continued. "I am going to take on quite a bit more. I remember back in the '90s corn got so cheap that many farmers burned it. But a few farmers who were able to put their corn in cribs and hold it a couple of years sold it at 70 cents a bushel instead of 10." Then, he added philosophically: "A good deal of money has been made in the world by buying things when they were cheap."

The story is told about one of the Rothschilds during the French Revolution. He was visited by an excited young man who had inherited some money and was afraid to invest it in anything.

"What shall I do?" he exclaimed. "Buy some French rentes," Rothschild replied.

"French rentes," the incredulous young man exclaimed. "Why, the streets of Paris are flowing with blood."

"That's why you can get them at 50 per cent discount," Rothschild said.

This is not a financial column; it is not a tip. I am not buying corn or advocating it. I am merely telling about a wise old man in Chicago who has lived through several of these depressions and who has insisted to me right along that they are "all alike." He has refused to be worried; he fully expects to have more money before he dies than he had in 1929.

And it would not surprise him greatly to see, within the next couple of years, a wheat or corn shortage instead of a surplus. That's the way things go, he says; up and down, back and forth, ebb and flow. Never permanently up; never permanently down. Not in the past, and not now!

Notre Dame has a football player named William Shakespeare, and he brings in his own Bacon.

PANDHANDLERS SIMPLY MOVE TO THE SUBWAYS

(New York Sun)

New York's professional panhandlers are not as dumb as they pretend to be nor do they desert the city as they used to do when winter came and put an end to their activities on the sidewalks. Now, instead of going into hibernation for the winter or joining the breadlines, they go into the subway stations, instead and do their begging there.

There are two reasons for this, one being that it is warm and comfortable underground, with plenty of newspapers lying around in waste receptacles for those who want to read when they are able to read, and the other being that suckers are in good humor after coming in out of the cold and are thus more likely to dig up a nickel.

Furthermore, the panhandlers have figured out that because their victims are stationary, waiting for trains, they do not have to be chased for half a block as often would be the case on the streets above. By nature these beggars have no inclination to do any unnecessary work, such as running after people.

PILOT FOR 30 YEARS RETIRES

Milwaukee, Dec. 12—Captain William Gnewuch, 77, veteran Milwaukee harbor pilot, looked back on three score years of service on Lake Michigan, during which he towed more than 100,000 vessels into port here when he retired Dec. 1.

When he retired his command as the master of the tug Conrad Starke, Captain Gnewuch was the oldest pilot on the lake in point of service. He brought his tug to aid in the rescue of more than 300 wrecks and stranded ships and figured prominently in the rescue in the single survivor of the waterworks crib disaster, in which 15 men were drowned.

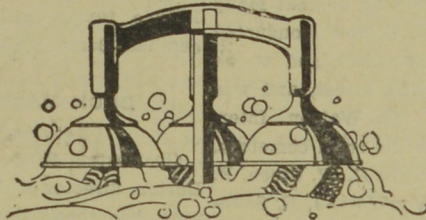
Gnewuch left school at 17 and served his apprenticeship on the lake schooner. He received his first master's license and command when he was 23. Forty years ago he began his service in the Milwaukee harbor.

"Towing was different in the old days," Captain Gnewuch said. "Vessels are bigger and harder to handle now. The big freighters carry ten times as much as the old windjammers did. Back in the old days, a good days work was towing in 25 or 30 boats. Now you do well if you bring five into the harbor in a day."



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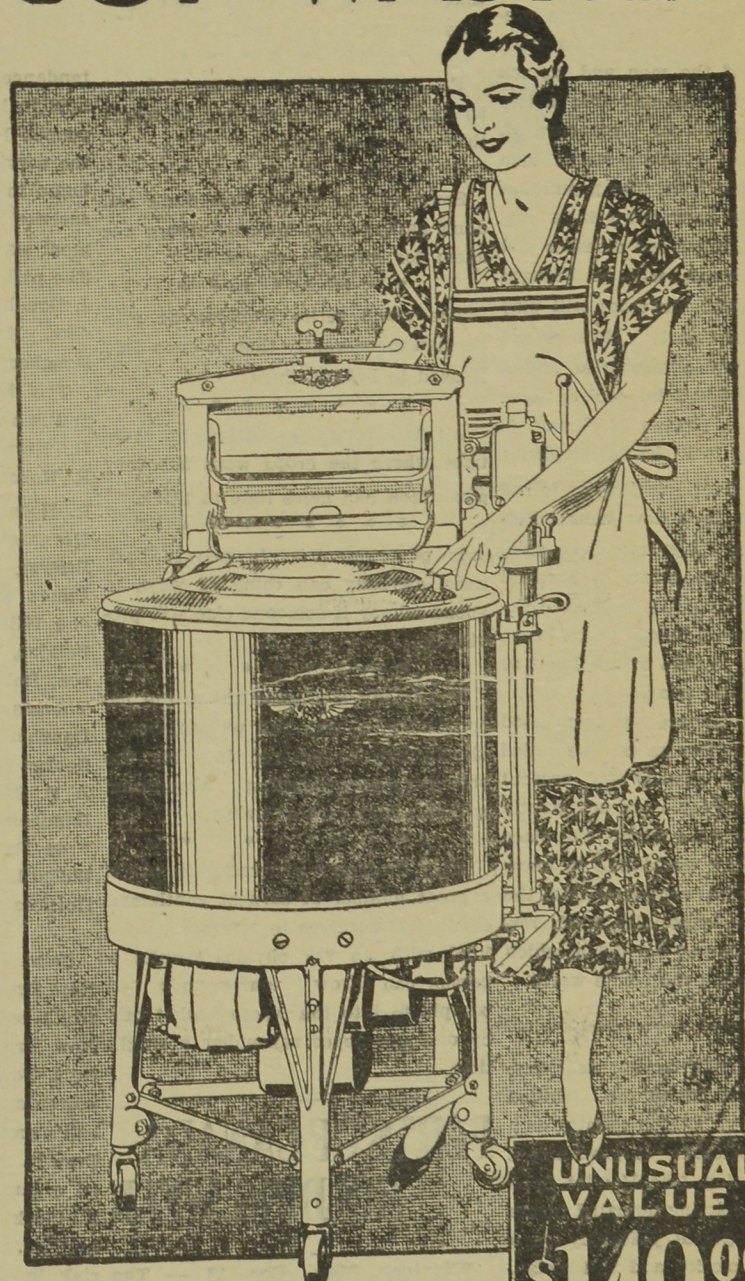
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