HOW STAMMERING MAY BE STOPPED

What Dr. Hudson-Makuen Has to Say Concerning the Habit.

The Stammerer is simply a person who does not know how to talk. He must be taught in somewhat the same way as a person is taught to play on the violin—so we are told by Dr. G. Hudson-Makuen, of Philadelphia, in a paper on the subject read before the State Medical Society and now issued in pamphlet form (Philadelphia, 1910.) Such instruction involves putting the patient's vocal organs into good order, of course, but this treatment is not the radical part of the cure. All sorts of so-called "cures" abound, but they are mostly based, the writer tells us, on imperfect ideas of the malady. He says:

"It has been estimated that there are upward of 300,000 stammers in the United States alone. It is quite probable that about one-fourth of the entire number would overcome their defect of their own accord, or at least with the little help that always comes from interested friends, but the remaining three-fourths present a very different problem.

"Stammerers are not alike,except in a few characteristics, and they require, therefore, a certain amount of individual treatment. Our experience with the one-fourth of the entire number, to whom I refer as being easily cured and to whom the grain of truth might prove adequate, can, of course, form no criterion as to a basis for the general treatment of stammering, but nevertheless, because of the great ease with which these exceptional few are managed, inexperienced observers have reached false conclusions and formulated so-called 'methods' of treatment which are misleading, fallacious, and even absurd.

"For instance, a stammerer is told to nod his head whenever he speaks, and because this procedure happens in his peculiar case to divert his attention sufficiently long to enable him to speak freely for a time, he thinks he has made a discovery and he immediately evolves a theory and establishes an institute with a secret 'method' which consists solely in nodding the head in unison with the natural rhythm of speech.

"Another advises beating time with the forefinger and thumb, or with the hand and arm or with the foot, during the process of speaking, and each one of these schemes has been dignified as a 'method' which has been dispensed for a consideration, and under bonds of secrecy. Experiences similar to this have generally been the starting-point of the numerous 'methods' which have been promulgated, from time to time, and which have resulted only in confusion to the many really severe stammerers who have been seeking relief.

"There is even now a separate and distinct method which characterizes nearly every school and teacher engaged in this work, and these methods in many instances amount to little more than tricks, to beguile the stamerer into freedom of speech,while his mind is preoccupied with something else.

"It is well known, of course, that many people stammer under certain conditions largely because they think they will. All their past experiences with speech have combined to confirm them in the thought, and it soon becomes a sort of 'fixt idea.' It is nothing for which the stammerer should be censured, because it is a perfectly natural consequence, and the idea or notion that he will stammer under certain conditions will remain fixt until it has been supplanted by absolute confidence in his ability to speak freely under all condjtions.

"That this confidence can be acquired in nearly all cases is my firm belief, but to be absolute the confidence must carry with it the ability. It is not enough for the patient to think that he can do it or even to know that he can do it, but he must know that he knows that he can do it. A stammer is never thoroughly and permanently cured who has not so mastered the physiology and psycology of speech, that should it ever become necessary he can recure himself. He must, of course, take heed lest he fail, but should he fall he must be able to pick himself up again.".

Early treatment of stammering,the writer tells us, usually proceeded on the supposition that it was due to disease or imperfection in the tongue. This, of course, is very far from the truth. We read:

"The trouble is not so much in the tongue, nor in the lips nor in the palate, nor in the pharynx, as it is in something back of them all. It is not so much in the peripheral as it is in the central mechanisms of speech. And thus it happens curiously enough that there is a grain of truth even in the theory and practise of surgery for the cure of stammering, and it is found in the psychic impression of the operation. . .

"History records also various educative methods for the treatment of stammering, many of which are theoretically and practically sound. Making use of opposing movements in respiration and vocalization, regulating tongue and lip action, exercising patients on difficult words, making use of rhythmic exercises, and whispering exercises are among the most important, but no one of these methods nor all of them combined can be regarded as a complete system for the cure of this affection."

A complete and scientific system of treatment must not only cure the stammering, but it must also teach the person to speak correctly. This is no simple matter, for it involves the whole physiological and psychological basis of speech. Dr. Hudson-Makuen continues:

"The scientific treatment of stammering must have in view the actual substitution of normal speech for abnormal speech, and its aim primarily, therefore, should be not the cure of the stammering, but the development of correct speech. The cure of stammering should be regarded as of secondary consideration, although of course it follows as a natural consequence. The stammerer's speech is faulty in every particular. His central as well as his peripheral mechanisms are out of gear and his mental attitude toward speech is wholly wrong. The instrument is out of tune, and the player is unskilled in its use. He can not retune his instrument and if he could he would be unable to play upon it. The affection, therefore, is a complicated one, involving not only all the various mechanisms of speech but also some of the higher intellectual and emotional centers ol the brain. Indeed,it involves the whole being, and its scientific treatment, therefore, must have for its purpose a thorough reduction of the individual; it must supplant his stammering speech with normal speech; it must make it easier for him to speak freely than to speak hesitatingly; it not only must correct the stammering habit, but it must remove the fear of stammering, upon which much of the trouble depends.

"The stammerer must be taught to speak in somewhat the same way as a person is taught to play upon the violin or the piano. The stammerer's instrument, of course, must be put in good condition by the removal of all obstructions to good speech, and then, as in the case of the would-be violinist or pianist, he must be taught to play upon this instrument. The exercises, which are purely educational and physiological must continue for a sufficient length of time to enable the patient to form entirely new habits of speech, and they must, of course, be adapted to the special requirements of each individual case.

"Stammering in the majority of instances, therefore, can not be cured in a few weeks. On the contrary, it often requires several months or even years to bring about the desired results. The man who guarantees to cure stammering in six weeks, or indeed who guarantees to cure it at all, is either ignorant of the true nature of the affection or possest of some ulterior motive, and is therefore not to be trusted."

WANT TO GET RID OF R. L. BORDEN

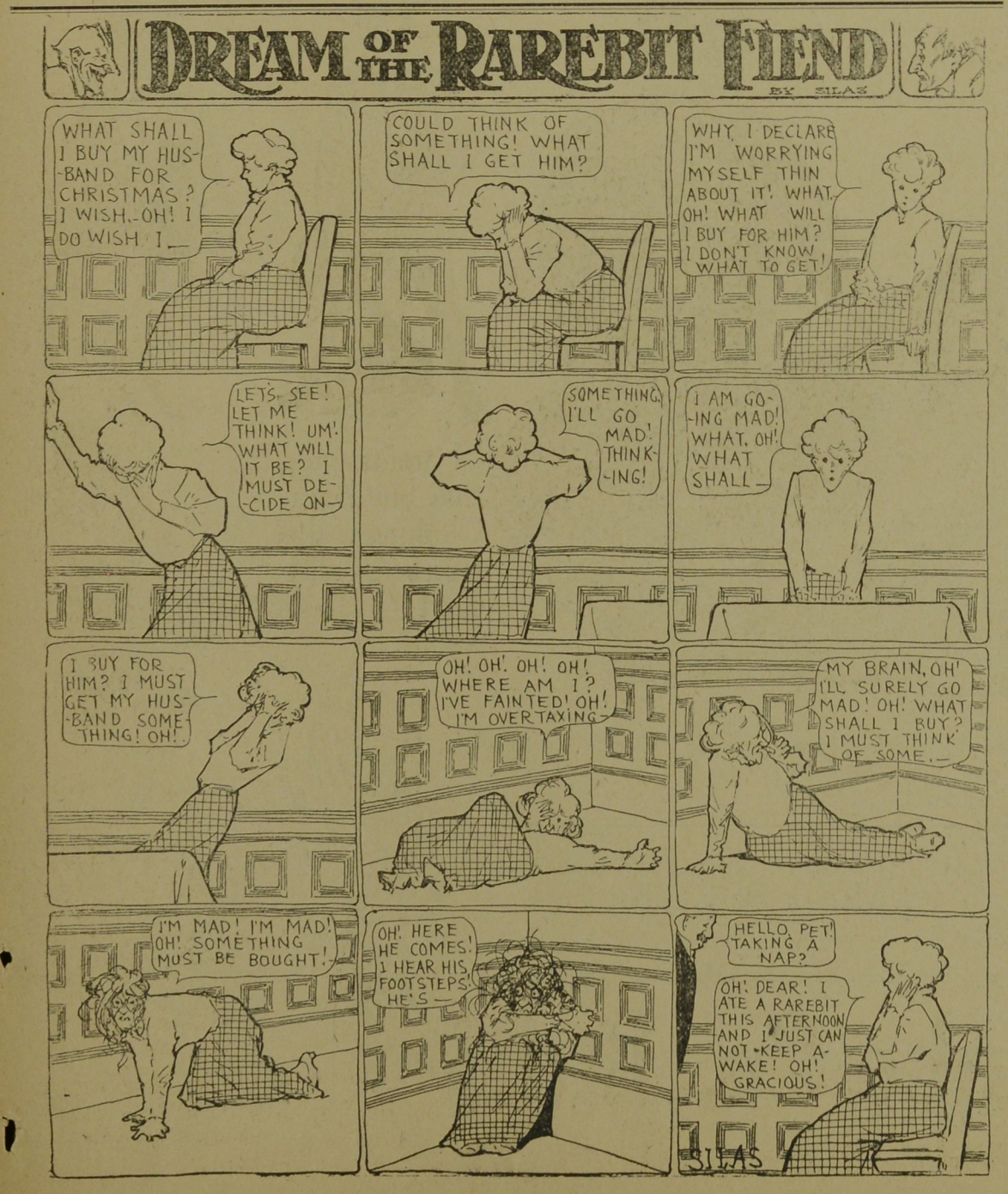
Montreal, March 23.—Some of the most prominent French Conservatives of Montreal, including members both in the federal and in the provincial house, held an informal meeting at the Lafontaine Club Monday, and, while some of those present deny the statement, it is confidently reported that it was resolved to oust, if possible, R. L. Borden as chief of the Opposition in Ottawa.

The Montreal French Conservatives claim that Mr. Borden's stand on the naval question is calculated to do such harm to the Conservative party that, if he is not replaced, their hopes of ever securing power at Ottawa are more than ever remote.

QUITE RIGHT.

A Peebles Colonial recalls the fact that one of the last greetings he received before leaving Scotland was from an old lady, who remarked:

"So you're gaun awa' tae New Zealand. I'm gled. An awfu' lot o' young fowk hes been deein' in Innerleithen. Ye're quite richt tae gang awa' afore ocht happens tae ye."



STORY OF DELUGE NOW CONFIRMED

American Professor Claims to Have Discovered Tablet Giving Biblical Story of Noah's Ark.

The discovery of a fragment of a cuneiform tablet believed to be of the period of 2100 B. C., bearing an account of the deluge described in the Bible and agreeing with the narrative of Genesis, has been reported by Prof. H. V. Hilprecht at a gathering of friends of the University of Pennsylvania at the home of Provost Harrison.

This fragment, which has just been deciphered, was one of those excavated from the lowest strata of the oldest part of the ruins of the Temple Library of Nippur and was brought to this city by the four expeditions sent out by the University of Pennsylvania in 1899. It is of unbaked clay and measures 2¾ inches at its greatest width and 2⅝ inches at its greatest length.

As translated by Prof. Hilprecht, the narrative contained on the tablet is as follows:

"(I declare unto) thee that the confines of heaven I will loosen, a deluge I will make and it shall sweep all men together; but thou (The Babylonian Noah) seek life before the deluge cometh forth; for to all living beings as many as there are I will bring overthrow, destruction, annihilation . . . build a great ship and . . . . . total hight shall be its structure. It shall be a houseboat carrying what has been saved of life . . . With a strong deck cover it. The ship which thou shalt make, into it bring the beasts of the field, the birds of heaven and the creeping things, two of everything, instead of a number . . . . and the family . . . . "

The Semetic dialect in the inscription and certain grammatical peculiarities of the text show, according to Prof. Hilprecht, that it was written between 2137 and 2005 B. C.

The oldest tablet heretofore known containing an account of the flood was the "Layard deluge tablet" in the British museum, but this dated only from 650 B. C.

The "Layard tablet" agreed with the Biblical narrative in only a few particulars. It was a pagan story of a deluge brought about at a council of the gods, who decided to destroy mankind. One of the gods was moved to save his protege—the Noah of the story—and sent a dream of warning upon which this Noah acted.

This god excused his betrayal of the secret to the other deities by the explanation that he did not tell, he only "whispered through the mat"—that is, through the wall of the house on the other side of &hich his protege slept, and to whom this dream was thus conveyed.

HALLEY'S COMET TO BE SEEN IN MAY

"Maligned innocents." Professor Lowell calls the comets. "They have never," he said, "caused any great disaster. From time immorial comets have carried consternation in their fore. War, pestilence, disaster and sudden heath have been frequently predicted, yet in the history of the world but three sailors and five monks have been known to suffer death as a result.

"I have read that the floods in Paris were caused by the approach of Halley's comet. This only emphasizes the fact that the public needs instruction concerning the comets. Comet hunting, in fact, has become a recognized sport, and religious factions and seers have predicted everything from religious strife and partial demolition to the millennium.

"Halley's comet will be nearest the earth between May 1 and June 1. During that time it may be seen with the naked eye. But far from affecting the earth, on the contrary, the earth will affect the comet and cause its deterioration to a certain point.

"Comets are made up of innumerable solid particles and gases, and every planet, even our own little planet, causes a deterioration, and rather than being harmful, they are ill treated by every planet which they approach. They become a swarm of meteorites and with the expansion of gates and the dismemberment of solids die out.

"The famous comet of 1882 gave us a grand opportunity for study as it passed between the earth and the sun. As a little child I watched it from a clock tower. It was the most inspiring sight of my life. Let us hope that Halley's comet will not cheat us. The young men who see it today may then see it in their old age, in 1985, and remember that in their youth they were inspired by it."

MOTHER'S TASK.

When mother gets breakfast, she must remember that father likes his breakfast food without cream; John, wants both cream and sugar; Susie doesn't like breakfast food at all and must have a substitute; Mary has to have grapefruit, and the rest of the family want oranges or apples. No two agree on anything, but she must remember what each one wants or the family doubt her devotion. What is it, do you suppose, that keeps the mother of a large family from going crazy?

WHAT MAKES THE FLAVOR IN EGGS

It is generally conceded that eggs which are perfectly fresh have the finest flavor. After eggs have been kept for a time, the flavor deteriorates, even if there is no indication of spoiling. Such differences are especially important when eggs are used for table purposes. Stale eggs are not regarded as palatable, and the flavor of spoiled eggs is such that for this, if for no other reason they are totally unfit for food. The flavor of even perfectly fresh eggs is not always satisfactory, since it is influenced more or less by the character of the food eaten by the laying hens. The New York State Experiment Station studied the effect of different rations upon the flavor of eggs. Those laid by hens fed on a highly nitrogenous ration were inferior to those from hens fed a carbonaceous ration. They had a disagreeable flavor and odor, the eggs and yolks were smaller and the keeping qualities were inferior. In a test at the Massachusetts (Hatch) Experiment Station to compare cabbage and lover rowen as the green portion of a ration for laying hens, it was found that the eggs produced on the former ration, although heavier and possessing a higher percentage of dry matter, protein and fat, were inferior in flavor and cooking qualities to eggs produced on the ration containing clover. The North Carolina Experiment Station studied the effect of highly flavored food upon the eggs produced. A small quantity of chopped wild onion tops and bulbs was added to the feed of a number of hens. After about two weeks the onion flavor was noticed in the eggs laid. When the amount of onion feed was increased the flavor became so pronounced that the eggs could not be used. A week after the feeding of onion was discontinued the disagreeable flavor was no longer noticed. From these tests it appears that the flavor of eggs may be materially influenced by the food consumed. This is a matter of importance, especially when poultry are kept to supply eggs for table use.

Raw eggs or eggs only slightly cooked are commonly said to be very digestible, the idea being obviously that they digest readily without giving rise to pain or other physical discomfort. The term digestibility has another meaning and one which is commonly intended when it is used in the discussion of food values. This refers to the thoroughness of digestion, that is to the total amount of material which any food gives up to the body in its passage through the digestive tract. Since only soluble or possibly emulsified matter can pass through the walls of the stomach and intestines and be taken up into the circulation to nourish the body, it follows that only material which is soluble or is rendered soluble by the action of the pepsin, trypsin, and other ferments in the digestive juices is truly digestible. The original condition of food, the method of cooking, and the amount eaten at a given time, are among the factors which determine the quantity of any given material which can be digested.

PEARY'S POLAR DATA IS MISSING

Washington, March 25—Action taken in the House disclosed that the Secretary of Commerce and Labor has no information relating to the records of Commander Peary bearing upon his discovery of the North Pole.

Several days ago Mr. Hughes of New Jersey offered a resolution calling on the secretary for reports of tidal observations made by Peary on the coast of Alaska. Mr. Hughes suggested that these reports might develop some information bearing on the discovery of the pole.

In asking that the resolution be laid on the table, Mr. Mann (Ill.) said the records referred to had been sent to the committee on interstate and foreign commerce. They did not contain data bearing on the discovery.

DON'T CARE.

Little Nelly told little Anita what she termed a "little fib."

Anita—A fib is the same as a story, and a story is the same as a lie.

Nelly—No, it ain't.

Anita—Yes it is, because my father said so, and my father is a professor at the university.

Nelly—I don't care what he is. My father is a real estate man, and he knows more about lying than your father.

MARYSVILLE TOPICS.

March 24.—The theatrical performances at the opera house in Fredericton are being well patronized by the people of Marysville. The performers are above the average. The vaudeville acts are especially good. A large number are taking advantage of the late train, which has been held each night so far until after eleven o'clock

Miss Sadie Titus is confined to the house through illness.

Miss Margaret Bird has gone to Blackville to accept a position with Mrs. Jardine, milliner of that place.

Miss Mary Gibson is home from Mount Allison College to spend the Easter holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Gibson, Jr.

Mr. Harder, of the Myrkle-Harder Co., was in town yesterday.

A number of people went down from here to attend the oratorio of Stainer's Crucifixion given in Christ Church Cathedral on Wednesday evening.

THE VERY LATEST IS ROSE TINTED COFFINS

Rose is the fashionable color in coffins this season.

Styles in coffiins! Why not? Many people devote a lifetime to style. It is only fair to them to give them a final stylish touch before they leave this vale of tears.

If you wish to show you are alive to the changing styles use a rose-colored coffin for yours.

Else people might think you are a dead one.

Gentle reader, do not criticise the lightsome tone of this serious article. If you had to write on such a gruesome subject as coffins you would be thankful for any ray of pleasure "amidst th' encircling gloom."

HEINTZ AND HIS VARIETIES.

Back to the coffin, however, P. B. Heintz of the National Casket Company was asked the other day about rosy aspect of coffin architecture. Mr. Heintz hastened to say first that "we do not speak of styles in this business." Then he added:

"But people have tastes and, like everything else they must be met."

After which spiel he continued thus: "Caskets are also made of white mahogany and teak wood and these are so arranged that they have an interior copper casement, which assures the preservation of the body and is often used in the case of those who have passed away from contagious diseases.

"People are getting more interested in this skbject and while there has been a reluctance to cons;der it, for obvious reasons yet I think that the conventional black will be supplanted by the colored casket. It may take time to bring obout this change, but it is likely to come, and the price of them will not materially differ from what has been used in the past.

COFFIN FAD IS GROWING.

"The rose-colored casket will be destined to be more in demand when we get reconciled to the change which has been coming for several years and now seems to have taken a decisive control in other cities.

"Caskets are made from $25 to $2,-250. People like a change from the black, and with the display of flowers the light shades of caskets present often a beautiful appearance.

"This is a matter that the generality of people do not care to refer to until they are compelled, and then they are obliged to do it hurriedly. There is no reason why the black casket should continue popular. For years we have noticed that the oak has been more in demand in certain quarters. If some one will start a change in their neighborhood and have a different colored casket ,the popularity would be assured at once."

SELENIUM SOURCE OF GREAT POWER

Hammer, a consulting electrical engineer of this city, explained to the students of Stevens Institute an interesting theory as to the value in time of war of selenium, a by-product of sulphuric acid. By the use of this product, he declared, the moment the searchlights of an enemy's warship fell upon it, a shot would be fired automatically down the path of light flashed by the approaching warship.

Selenium, which was first discovered in 1817 by Berziliusi who obtained it from crystals formed in the lead chambers of sulphuric acid works, possess the remarkable property, Mr. Hammer said, of being an excellent insulator in the dark, but of becoming an excellent conductor of an electric current when exposed to light.

Mr. Hammer used Newark as an example of a city which might be defended to advantage by cannon controlled by the selenium cells.

"Cannon," he said, "equipped with a box on the carriage containing a selenium cell, could be mounted on prominent earthworks with their muzzle pointed down the bay. In the dark or the dim light from small reflectors, the selenium cell would not conduct a spark from a battery in thebox to the powder, but this would take place the instant a powerful searchlight from a battleship was turned upon the cell, changing it from being a poor to an excellent conductor. The gun's aim would probably be correct as the straight beam from the ship shone on it, with the result that the hostile war vessel would set off the charge which would sink it."

Mr. Hammer then told the students that if any of them ever had any idea of going into the burglary business it would be well to ascertain if the banks had any selenium cells concealed about them, for an alarm might be given miles away the moment the intruder's bullseye fell on one of the cells. He showed how, by means of selenium cells, apparatus could be simply constructed for measuring light, X-rays, radium rays and in controlling electric and other machines, operating boats, turning on and off lights, automatically lighting and extinguishing buoys and street lights closing buildings automatically in the event of fire, and doing many other wonderful things which the scientific world is just beginning to realize dimly.

He who believes only what he understands has a very short creed.