

# MODERN MEN PLAIN

### Famous English Artist Marks Increasing Plainness.

#### Britain's Women Are Growing in Beauty and Plainly Show Preference for Men Ineligible to Handsome Class.

London.—Considerable interest has been aroused by the statement made at the meetings of the Dental federation that, partly owing to mouth troubles, we are becoming an uglier nation.

Extensive inquiries go to show that it is, in many people's opinion, more the men of the country than the women who are degenerating in looks—and the interesting point of view was evolved that they need not be disheartened, since there never was a time when plain, or even ugly men were so popular with women.

Various reasons are suggested for the alleged decline of masculine good looks.

"The noise and rush and incessant hurry of modern life," said George Henry, A. R. A., the well-known artist, "is largely responsible for the increasing plainness of our men. Another factor that has to be remembered is the circumstance that the towns—especially in Scotland—are not being recruited from the country districts, and the country districts themselves are being depopulated by emigration."

"Your nerve-racked townsmen marries, perhaps, an equally nervous wife, and the effect of the two temperaments is bound to be seen in the children, who certainly have less chance of being beautiful than the children of parents who lead placid, untroubled lives."

A famous sculptor declared that he considered that the rule did not apply to the average British woman.

"Her beauty," he said, "is certainly not on the wane. It is probably due to the increasing popularity of outdoor sports, hockey, cycling, tennis and other healthy pastimes, that her physique is better, her complexion clearer and her eyes more limpid. This, of course, should have its effect in increased beauty in the children, but unfortunately it is not always the case."

"It is not generally known that we sculptors take our women models from among British girls, but the male models are almost invariably Italian. The lady, rather good looking Italian youth makes an excellent model, though painters object to the dull, muddy texture of his skin, compared with the healthy, satiny nature of the British type."

"The plain man need not be in the least discomfited," said the verger of a church well known for the marriages which take place there.

"It is not at all unusual for an extremely beautiful woman to marry a more than usually plain man; indeed, the proportion of plain bridegrooms is on the increase."

The most important opinion of all is, of course, a feminine one. A well-known lady author said that the plain man was never more popular than he is today.

"The plain man," she said, "is so often not self-centered, he is more courteous, more considerate and chivalrous toward women."

"The shy man, too, when once the veil of reserve has been torn aside, is often found to be a delightful companion, and in many cases—perhaps the majority—proves a dutiful and affectionate husband. Good looking men are seldom shy."

"No, let the plain man take heart of grace. If he has a personality like women like him just the same—perhaps the better for his looks."

# HER DREAM FOILS LIGHTNING

### Pennsylvania Woman Gets Two Sons Out of Bed Before Bolt Strikes—Other Queer Freaks.

Allentown, Pa.—Lightning played some of its queerest pranks during the most serious of a series of thunder storms which swept over Lehigh county, Mrs. Samuel Binder, of Emaus, was awakened by a terrific clap of thunder from a dream in which she saw her two sons killed by lightning.

The terrified mother quickly rushed to her sons' room and was so insistent that they accompanied her downstairs, although they laughed at her fears. A minute later a bolt of lightning tore through the house, crashing their bed to splinters and setting the bed clothes afire.

At Catawauqua a lighted oil lamp was smashed by a bolt that made its way into the dining room at the home of Harvey Missimer. Dishes were pulverized and furniture reduced to kindling wood; but the stroke, instead of starting a fire through the lamp, extinguished it.

A stroke that hit the butcher shop of Harry Onuschkak spent its force in the refrigerator. While it did not start a fire, it seared the meat as if it had been broiled.

Blindfolded Dancer Makes Hit. London.—Mrs. Mella, who is now starring at the Palace theater in London, made a great hit with her dancing in Berlin. Hungarian by birth, she was trained in the best of all schools now in existence, the Russian ballet.

The novelty of her performance lies in her ability to dance blindfolded among eggs placed at regular intervals in rows on the stage without breaking or even touching them.

# WORST PENMEN IN CONGRESS

### Sparkman of Florida and Adamson of Georgia Share That Honor Between Them.

"I'll bet you a dinner for ten people," said Representative Frank Clark of Florida one day last spring, according to the Popular Magazine, "that the worst penman in congress is Sparkman of my state."

"I'll take that bet," replied Hardwick of Georgia. "The man who writes the worst hand in the world is Adamson of my delegation."

Sparkman is chairman of the committee on rivers and harbors and Adamson is the head of the committee on interstate and foreign commerce. The two congressmen who had made the bet selected a committee to pass on the handwriting in question, and then secured letters written by Sparkman and Adamson in their own penmanship. Those letters were something horrible to see, and the judges decided that the writing of both was so bad that the writers, not the men who had made the bet, must pay for the dinner.

While the banquet was in progress Adamson told this story:

"Last winter a constituent of mine wrote to me and asked for a specimen of my handwriting, explaining that he had heard it was the worst in the world, and that he was making a study of bad penmanship. I complied with the request. In a few days he returned my letter to me, with this note:

"Fine! Am enthusiastic. Didn't know such handwriting was possible. Please send me a typewritten copy of the inclosed. I need a key to it."

# EXERCISE ON THE DECLINE

### Medical Journal Says That Automobiles and Motor Boats Are Making People Lazy.

Anyone who takes an outing, particularly at the seaside, can hardly fail to notice the revolution that has taken place during the last decade in the methods of enjoying a vacation. The automobile whizzes by on the roads and the motor boat sputters noisily within sight of the shore, each bearing its crowd of pleasure seekers, while even the swimmers are supported, to a large proportion of them at least, by an artificial contrivance designed to keep them afloat without exertion.

Rowing, walking and swimming are the three ideal exercises, all demanding the open air and all having definite objects apart from their excellent effect on bodily health. But the modern amusements, such as motoring and motor boat racing, have nothing to recommend them save that they too require outdoor space.

Golf seems to be increasing the number of its devotees, even if the latter go to the links in high powered cars. But the writer would like to see the immense audiences of baseball and football games playing on their own, and would welcome a regulation that prescribed a playground ten times its size to adjoin every new library. It is not only the rich who become lazy; the omnipresent trolley car embodies the favorite recreation of the poor.

# Pepsin Fifty Years Old.

The introduction of pepsin as a remedial agent effected a complete revolution in the method of restoring to normal the ailments which in the old days were classed in a group as dyspepsia.

If physicians were to observe anniversaries of the discovery of remedies which had proven a blessing to mankind the entire profession would unite in remembering the fiftieth anniversary of the first manufacture of pepsin in this country.

Just half a century ago the late John Carrick, the eminent physiological chemist and the father of physiological products in the United States, made possible a new epoch in American medicine by producing the first pepsin.

Pepsin had been found in a small way in Europe before Mr. Carrick's enterprise caused it to be introduced here, as it was originally suggested by Dr. Corvisart of Paris. The quality was so poor, however, that its use was distinctly limited.—Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette.

Quite a Gentleman. "You have some beefsteak, of course?" queried a man who had hurriedly entered a butcher shop.

"Yes, sir." "And beefsteak is good to take the color out of a black eye?"

"The best thing in the world, sir!"

"Good! Save two pounds for Riley?"

"Which Riley?"

"The Riley who lives in Edward street. I'm going to black both his optics. He'll probably call in half an hour. Good evening!"

Twenty minutes later the same man came back with his coat in rags, his collar gone, his nose damaged, and both eyes puffed up.

"Did you find Riley?" asked the shopman, with a twinkle in his eye.

"I did, sir, and he has kindly consented to let me use the beefsteak. Mr. Riley is a gentleman, sir!"

Kept Him Busy. "Why this endless procession of young men?"

"Oh, my daughter is very irritating. Every time she gets herself engaged she makes a formal affair of it, and sends the young man to call on me."

# CAUSE OF TOOTHACHE

### High Tension Electrical Currents Responsible for Suffering.

#### Physicians Have Traced Many Other Ailments to Electricity—Increasing Use Causes Much Apprehension.

New York.—Wireless toothache, due to the high tension electrical currents produced in sending wireless messages, is the latest disease discovered by New York physicians, and it is said hundreds of wireless operators, professional and amateur, in this city and its neighborhood are suffering from it. Prediction is also made that the heavy currents discharged by the wireless telegraph will produce other nervous diseases among those who expose themselves too much to such phenomena. There perhaps are thousands of amateur wireless operators in New York city. Investigation discloses that many of them have had toothache since they began their wireless studies and experiments. What other diseases of a nervous sort have followed in the wake of the current only will be revealed by scientific investigation.

A prominent European physician discovered the wireless toothache, and the bad effect of the high tension currents on the nerves of his patients. He predicts there will be a general increase of nervous ailments, due to that cause. That physician says the neurotic elements are affected so by the currents that a low grade neuritis is produced which progresses according to each patient's general physical condition, hygienic surroundings, occupation and habits. The European investigator points out that the electricity artificially permeates the surrounding atmosphere and that a person brought in contact with it, day after day, must have a good constitution to withstand its effects. Weak persons even may suffer from aggravated forms of nervous disorder by the wireless process, he asserts.

When the European physician announced the discovery of wireless toothache he was scoffed at by other doctors, who had not studied the question as he had. The discovery, however, is being regarded seriously on both sides of the Atlantic, and skilled minds are seeking to discover what other ailments may be caused by such high tension currents being loose in the air.

It is recalled the X-ray affects the skin and tissues insidiously and often disastrously. Nor is it any secret that persons who are compelled to pass long periods in rooms where big dynamos are in operation frequently show neurotic tendencies. Physicians who use the ultra-violet, high tension and other forms of electricity in treatment often suffer neurotic afflictions. These things indicate, it is suggested, that disease producing qualities lurk in electricity of which little is known as yet. Third rails, live trolley wires, telephone and telegraph wires and other agencies are discharging into the air constantly currents of electricity which pass through persons in the streets and elsewhere, and there are physicians who fear that as the use of electricity increases, wireless telegraphy and telephony get in full swing, wireless toothache will be merely one of a long list of nervous diseases directly traceable to excess of electricity in the atmosphere.

# FLYING FISHES ATTACK MEN

### Attracted by Light, School Forces Lobster Catchers to Flee—Two Men Are Badly Bruised.

San Diego, Cal.—Flying fish by thousands attacked Captain Selley and son of the lobster launch Audrey just off the Coronado islands, according to reports brought here. As a result, Captain Selley is suffering from a badly bruised head and his son is nursing numerous sore spots and cuts and bruises.

The men were engaged in pulling in their lobster nets at night, when the school of winged fish arose like a cloud from the water. They were attracted by a bright light aboard the launch, and the occupants of the boat were completely enveloped by the strange denizens of the deep.

Captain Selley dropped his net and sought shelter below, but his son, who tried to handle the net alone, was knocked to the deck, and had to crawl to a place of comparative safety.

The entire lobster catch was lost, but the net was saved because one end was tied to the launch. Afraid to venture on deck, the wounded lobster hunters remained below, giving entire possession of the craft to the fish, which fluttered a round the light until morning.

Martin, an old-time mariner, employed at the customs office, declared that he had a similar experience two years ago and almost lost his life.

Name for Roosevelt Baby. San Francisco.—The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., is to have a christening party soon, but the precise date is not given.

The little girl is to be named Grace Green Roosevelt, after her grandmother, Mrs. H. Addison Alexander, whose maiden name was Grace Green. Mrs. Alexander is here from New York as the guest of her daughter. The latter is in the best of health, receiving her friends who come to see the child. The baby has received gifts from all over the country.

# "SEA SERPENT" IN A CANAL

### Bather Who Fled Before It Says Its Head Was Like a Dog's—Followed by Several Men.

Richfield, N. J.—Several bathers in the Morris canal made a hasty retreat from the water when the cry of "devil fish" was raised by Robert Thompson, a farm hand.

Thompson, who was some distance from the other bathers, declares that when he first saw the monster it was following him with its head out of the water. He at first thought it was a small dog, but on looking at it more closely he discovered, he says, that its head was similar to that of a porpoise. The strange creature followed him to the bank, and he says he climbed up the bank just in time to escape it. The monster then turned about and went down stream toward the other bathers.

Not knowing what the thing was and wishing to warn the others, Thompson called out: "Look out for the devil fish!" This had the desired result and the men left the water.

Albert Woodrow of Brookdale, who had a good view of the thing as it passed at him in the water, says that it was at least 10 feet long, had a round greenish body and a head as big as that of a bulldog, which it bobbed up out of the water at intervals. "If it was a water snake," declared Woodrow, "it was the biggest I ever saw, and I have seen hundreds of them."

Several men followed it down the canal for a short distance, but it went so fast that they soon lost sight of it. Word was sent to the lock tender at the Bloomfield plans to keep a lookout for the fish, but so far it has not been seen at that point. The alarm reached Bloomfield and the several bathing resorts on the canal were soon deserted.

# NEW YORK BITTEN BY FLEAS

### Pests Worry Many Dogs to Death and Prove Quite Irritating to Humans—Particularly Numerous.

New York.—New York state is the victim of a violent and concentrated attack of pulex canis and pulex irritans.

Pulex canis is the common dog flea and pulex irritans the common human flea. More of these two varieties of pests have been observed throughout the state, and particularly in regions near this city, than have been noted in years.

From Westchester towns for weeks have come reports of dogs eaten alive by the pests. One man in Pelham killed two of his dogs which were so infested that their skins were constantly covered with blood from inroads made by the insects. He tried every means to rid his pets of the vermin and, failing, chloroformed them.

Two dogs were found dead, presumably from the attacks of fleas, in Tarrytown, and at Irvington private kennels had to be burned.

One man between Mamaroneck and White Plains has torn down and burned all his kennels. He is a dog fancier, having 50 animals in his care, and was obliged to build new kennels. Even then his dogs immediately became reinfested and several of them died.

# NEW SKIRT DISPLAYS ANKLES

### Man Milliner of New York Tells of French Style Which Permits of Easy Walking by Women.

New York.—Charles Kurzman, the world famous Fifth avenue milliner, who arrived the other day on the Kaiser Wilhelm II., brought word of a new fashion set at Trouville to permit of more graceful walking and showing the ankles. The new style, set by the Baronne de Vaughan at the French watering place, is the antithesis of the old hobble skirt, which restricted and hampered walking instead of making it easy.

Mr. Kurzman also declared that the fashion of the season will be curves in the making of gowns and that the Parisian couturiers have orders to make curves, no matter how the figure, and that they had evolved some startling effects.

Fur hats and large velvet hats will be the rage this season and paradise and ostrich feathers, as well as gours, will be seen much in fashionable headgear.

# BOY'S HEART ON RIGHT SIDE

### Discovery Made by Physician Called to Attend Ailing New Jersey Youth—Home Remedies Fail.

Bloomfield, N. J.—Dr. Jacob Wolf discovered the other day that the heart of William Stevens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stevens, is on the right side of his body instead of the left. The boy had been complaining of pains in his right side for days and when home remedies failed to relieve him, the physicians were called. Dr. Wolf found nothing the matter with the physical condition of the boy until he applied an instrument to his left side and found no heart beat. He was puzzled for a moment and then tried the right side.

# Wants Husband Declared Dead.

Independence, Kan.—To have her husband, who disappeared June 14, 1904, declared legally dead, and to compel a fraternal order to pay her \$3,000 insurance on his life, is the object of a suit brought in the district court by Mrs. Aveline Steinkamp of Caney. The wife cites the statute declaring legally dead persons who have been missing seven years.

# CHILD PREVENTS BIG SPREE

### Bad Man of Nevada Meets Penniless Tot, Shows Her the Sights and Goes Home Sober.

Winnemucca, Nev.—The other day Jack Woodruff mounted his horse at Paradise, Nev., 45 miles from Winnemucca—off the railroad, but on the map—concluding to take in the circus which showed here. His intention was, in addition to seeing the circus, to make a day of it after the manner of the reckless kind, not only shooting up the town as in days of yore, but as near to it as modern civilized conditions would permit.

Everything, however, moved wrong with Jack when he got to Winnemucca, and in a somewhat surly mood he lounged to the circus lot early, took in the side show, bought his ticket for the big three-act event and meandered toward the front door.

A little girl, trembling with excitement at the novel scenes about her, was standing in his way. He halted and said curiously:

"Sir, ain't you going to the circus?" "No," she humbly answered. "I haven't got the money." Whereupon Jack went back and bought a ticket for the girl.

While the fire engine was running to the clown's fire and Rescue Hose No. 1 was doing antics saving people and the whole tent was in an uproar, he turned to the little girl and said:

"Sir, how do you like the circus?" "All she replied was: 'It's just beautiful.'"

This was repeated in answering his questions a half dozen times, and Jack's interest in the child became intensified.

When the performance in the big tent was over he seized her by the hand and took her into the menagerie, where she was mystified and delighted and was loathe to leave, hanging back and taking a last lingering look at the camels and elephants. When Jack got her to the front door, or marquee, he met the balloon boy and bought the blue-eyed little girl in a blue calico dress a blue balloon and another bag of popcorn.

"Little girl, how did you like the circus?" he finally inquired, smilingly and almost tenderly.

"It was just beautiful," she answered again, with tears running down her cheeks. And Jack, putting his hand to his eyes, found tears running down there, also. A moment later he called out, "Good-by, little girl," and, getting on his horse, rode back to Paradise, 45 miles away.

When he reached home his folks asked him how he liked the show, whereupon he answered somewhat softly for him:

"It was bully! Saved me a big drunk, somehow."

# WAR ON GROUND SQUIRRELS

### Government Officials Destroying Rodents Infested With Bubonic Plague—Germs—Cats Warned Away.

Seattle, Wash.—Following the news that ground squirrels caught along the Columbia river were found to be infested with germs of the bubonic plague, government employees are going through farms and ranches poisoning and killing the squirrels by every method yet devised.

The ground squirrels of the Pacific slope from southern California to British Columbia have been found to possess the germs of the plague. The localities where the germ-laden squirrels have been discovered are widely separated, but the federal authorities are taking no chances with the pests carrying the disease farther away.

The squirrels are being poisoned and trapped by the federal employees, who are making every effort to prevent communication of the plague germs to the rats of the cities and towns along the coast. Since embedded in the black wharf rats of the coast cities the danger of a quick spread of the plague to human beings is almost certain. It is said by experts that a bite by the ground squirrel or rat infested by the germs would be sufficient to transmit the disease to other animals and to human beings.

Because of its prevalence in parts of the northwest, farmers who have been employing cats to rid the fields of gophers and squirrels have been warned to keep the cats in, lest they, too, become infected, making it easy to transmit the disease to the family.

# KISSED AS ONE OF FAMILY

### Frenchman Is Caught in Group Seeing Colombian Minister Off—No Chance to Make Explanation.

New York.—F. de P. Borda, Colombian minister to the United States, sailed for Bogota via Puerto Colombia on the Royal Mail steam packet Clyde, accompanied by his wife and son. Apparently the whole of the Colombian colony in this city went to the pier to see their minister and his family off, and for half an hour before the ship sailed there was nothing but tears, embraces and kisses on every side.

A French clerk, who brought down a package from a jewelry store for one of the passengers, got mixed up with the crowd bidding farewell to the departing Colombians, and to his great surprise was suddenly seized and kissed on either cheek by a stout woman murmuring "Adois, adois, vaia con Dios."

The embarrassed Frenchman tried to explain that it was a mistake when a dark man with whiskers took him from the stout woman and also bade him farewell. After a struggle the clerk extricated himself and hurriedly left the ship after giving his package to the purser.

# FOOT TEST IS RIGID

### Imprint of Hollow of Foot Throws Applicant Out.

#### Nearly One-Third of Applications for Enlistment at St. Louis Rejected Because of Pedal Defects.

St. Louis.—Are American men becoming flat footed?

Records of the recruiting offices of the United States marine corps and the United States navy tend to show that they are. One of the first tests made in the examination of applicants for enlistment is the foot test; and if the applicant is found to be flat footed the test goes no farther. The applicant is rejected forthwith.

Thirty-five per cent of the applicants for enlistment in the recruiting offices in St. Louis are rejected because their feet fail to pass inspection.

Apparently the feet of the white race are approaching the condition expressed by a southern negro many years ago, when, commenting on the track made by one of his brethren, he said: "De hollow of yo' foot makes a hole in de ground."

Flat foot, according to the Webster Dictionary, is a foot in which the arch of the instep is flattened so that the entire sole of the foot rests upon the ground.

The condition of the foot is objected to by the United States marine corps because it indicates the giving way of the tendons of the feet. The defect is likely to become aggravated in the feet of soldiers in service on the steel decks of ships or troops on long marches.

This condition of the foot is said to be caused chiefly by the cheap grades of shoes on the market. The sole of the instep is not sufficiently braced to support the arch. Officers of the United States marine corps claim that the shoes furnished by the government to the soldiers will prevent this defect, as the soles are stiff and will support the arch. In a few partial cures of the defect have been made by the wearing of an arch shoe for several months.

The foot test at the recruiting office is a very simple one. The applicant is required to pull off his shoes, socks, step on an ink pad to the bottom of his foot, then step on a sheet of white paper on which the print of the foot is made. If the arch of the foot is broken down, the ink will show that the flesh of the arch spread out on both sides of natural contour.

The military authorities of hundreds of young men have been blighted in the last few years by the fact that their feet fail to meet the government requirements. Sergt. Harry Ennis of the United States marine corps recruiting office in St. Louis says the rules against accepting flat footed men became very strict soon after the campaign in Nicaragua in 1908, when 900 marines spent three months on the shore. The campaign evidently was a severe test to their feet and soon afterwards 28 of the 900 men were discharged on account of flat feet. New orders were issued relative to foot inspection and the recruiting officers were directed to enlist no men who had flat feet, club feet, aplay feet, large corns on the sole of the foot or corns on any part of the foot, if the corns appeared to be irritated or sore, webbed toes or the great toe crossing its neighboring toe. Knock knees also disqualify a man from military service.

Comparatively few of the applicants for the marine corps can qualify, owing to some physical defect. In addition to the 35 per cent rejected for low standard feet, 10 per cent are rejected for defective vision, 7 per cent for color blindness, 6 per cent for defective teeth and about 32 per cent for other physical defects. No more than 15 per cent of the applicants are enlisted.

# INVENT COMPASS FOR FCGS

### New Wireless Instrument Signals by "Tunes" Approaching Ships—Ships Can Find Positions.

Paris.—The wonderful wireless compass invented by the Italian officers, Bellini and Toal, will shortly be used to enable ships to ascertain their position in fogs. Special wireless signals are to be sent out from various stations on the French coast, and ships fitted with the Bellini-Toal compass will be able to determine the direction in which the signals were traveling. Different signals are to be sent out at regular intervals from stations at Le Havre, Lighthouse, Ile de Sein and Croach d'Ouessant. The "tune" of each signal will be different, and the signals themselves will be various letters of the alphabet, so that those arriving from one station will not be confounded with those coming from another. The compass is an instrument which, when "tuned" to receive any wireless signals, shows by an indicator in what direction the signaling station lies.

Start Prairie Dog Farm. Cheyenne, Wyo.—With 100 prairie dogs captured near Rawlins, Wyo., as a part of his "baggage," Perry Williams, a glove manufacturer of Gloucesterville, N. Y., passed through here the other day en route to his home, where he said he was going to start a prairie dog farm as an adjunct to his business. Experiments with prairie dog pelts, Mr. Williams declared, had shown them to be valuable in the manufacture of fur gloves.