WILL LOCUSTS HERALD WAR?

This is Time for 17-Year-Old Variety and if "W" is on Wings It Means Struggle.

Boston.—This is the year that the 17-year locust is due again, and in a few weeks he will make his appearance on the farms of the middle west. At least the authorities on locust lore and superstition are sure he will and they have never been mistaken in the past. No one seems to know exactly where the 17-year locust comes from, but it is a matter of record that he does show up regularly just the same.

The thing that is interesting the farmers and the old timers most is whether he will bring a "W" on his wings or a "P," as is hoped. "W" on a 17-year locust's wings means war. There is no reason under the sun that is known as to why it should be always either "W" or "P," but those are the only two letters that have been noticed.

Locust lore experts have a good deal of statistical backing when they assert that if the "W" is on the wings it will surely mean war, and if the "P" is on the wings it will just as surely mean peace.

"In 1893, the last time the locusts were here," said an old commercial traveler the other day, "the wings hore a decided 'W.' And we promptly got into the war with Spain. In 1876 I saw the 'P' on the vings myself, and following that we had peace and plenty.

"I don't remember so far back as 1859, that is to say, I don't remember locusts back in those days, but I have been told by scores of old farmers that the 17-year locust kind showed up that year and bore 'W' on each wing. The civil war followed.

"Some of the older generation of farmers have records in the old family Bible to prove that the former visitation of 17-year locusts presaged the Mexican war by bearing 'W' on their wings. I can tell you the farmers are not anxious to have them come, but they are all superstitious as to their verity as harbingers.

"When you come to think of it, this letter business seems like a very foolish superstition. But when you know that they do bear either the 'W' or the 'P' and that the sign has never failed, how are you going to explain it?"

GIRL IS LEADER OF GRANGE

Buccess Crowns Work of Society
Leader in Promoting Confidence
in Farm Life.

Rio Grande, N. J.-Miss Hester Geneva Hildreth, a recognized social leader in South Jersey, has demonstrated in a remarkable manner the ower of woman to promote the common good. Miss Hildreth, who is a sister of Judge Mildreth, and also of A. Carlton Hildreth, the nominee for county clerk, is the master of Rio Grande Grange, No. 186, the most recently organized grange in Cape May county. She succeeded in obtaining a charter list of 48 members, the largest number ever presented by a new grange in Cape May county, and to which many additions have since beer, made.

The organization has been meeting in a private residence, but it has purchased a lot, and expects soon to be in its own hall, when it will send an invitation to the house warming.

In the grange every office is open to women, and in all the work of the order women have equal voice with men, but few women become masters. Just as Mrs. Sarah Baird has for several years served most efficiently as head of the state grange of Minuesota, so Miss Hildreth, as head of the Rio Grande grange, has exerted a most beneficent influence.

While not a farmer nor of farmers' folk, Miss Hildreth resides in a community largely composed of well-to-do farmers. In working for others, she has added materially to her own happiness.

The grange is known as a farmers' organization, but it concerns his improvement rather than his occupation. The aim in it is to better his social condition by breaking up the isolation of country life and living. It seeks to bring country people together and to know each other socially; to overcome distrust and foster co-operation.

PLUCKY LAD ENDURES PAIN

Washington Boy, Refusing Anesthetic, Does Not Flinch While Undergoing Operation.

Dayton, Wash.—When 17-year-old Holsey Fouts was operated on for a painful affliction of the feet and lower limbs, he stoutly refused to take an anesthetic. Dr. Donahoo finally agreed to perform the tedious operation in face of this handicap. The youngster was strapped to the table without removing his coat.

Suffering most excruciating pain, young Fouts uttered never a sound, but when the operation was over the physician took a ragged coat sleeve out of the lad's mouth. He had most of the sleeve between his teeth and it was bitten to shreds.

The boy's father stood near during the operation and when he saw the surgeon pull the sleeve from his son's mouth, fainted away.

Music Helps Make Cigara.
South Bethlehem, Pa.—Sustaining the logic of Dixle, where music makes the plantation hands work faster, a clocal cigar factory here has put in a pipe organ, worked by electricity, to try its continuous music on several hundred employes.

FOOD TO END WARS

"Fireless" Variety Develops Cult
That Is Gaining in Boston.

Leader Claims That it Will Bring
About World-Wide Peace—Also
Bring About Amazing Decrease
In Murder and Dissipation.

Boston—"Fireless food" has developed a cult that is rapidly gaining devotees about the Hub. Imagine an appetizing course dinner not one dish of which had been prepared over a stove. Two hundred Brookline men and women were served with such a repast by Mr. and Mrs. Isidor Phillips, at the Twentieth Century club. The banquet was for the benefit of the American Peace society treasury, and in a vigorous statement Mrs. Phillips laid the constant irritations called wars to the indulgence in meats.

Probably if all the warlike of the earth could partake of meals such as Mr. and Mrs. Phillips prepared for the peace banqueters they would beat their swords into spoons and spend more time at table than on the battle-field. On the bill of fare, which did not contain one cooked or stove prepared item, were unfired bread, cold slaw, orange eggs, nuts, ice cream, cream of pea, bananas in pods, jellied eggs, banana coffee and other delicacies not in the book of the skillet and oven cook.

Mrs. Phillips assures the public that everybody would be peaceful and well behaved if they shunned meat diet and carried vegetarianism to a degree where stoves or fires of any sort would be unnecessary in the preparation. She asserted that the animal led to be slaughtered spoiled himself for eating purposes through fright.

"I believe that there would be far less crime in the world, that murder and dissipation would decrease amazingly and that our prisons would be much less crowded than they are today, if the meat diet now in vogue everywhere should be stopped and if people would turn to vegetarianism as a means of subsistence," asserts Mrs. Phillips.

"Human beings to-day who have been brought up on the meat of slaughtered animals are to a certain degree overcharged with a vital energy which demands always too great an outlet. Thus we have everywhere a nation of hard smokers, hard drink-

The present-day rush and demand for excitement and thrill are merely the consequence of that high physical pressure which has been created by this constant taking into our system of animal flesh."

APPEALS FOR CENSUS TRUTH

United States Census Bureau Urges Everybody to Tell Truth to Enumerators.

Chicago.—The United States Census bureau has issued an appeal to clergymen, physicians, school teachers, and employes to aid in the work of gathering census statistics, which will begin April 15, by urging all with whom they come in contact to answer the questions of the enumerators and not to withhold facts.

Many persons, according to the bulletin issued by the bureau, believe that information given to the census men may be used against them in the way of increasing taxes, involving them in prosecution or other legal entanglements or in revealing their business secrets.

The bulletin points out that all census statistics absolutely are confidential, and that any census employe revealing the secrets confided to him may be punished by two years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000.

"The information sought will be used only for general statistical purposes," the bulletin says. "It will neither be published nor used in any other way to disclose facts regarding any individual or enterprise."

The bulletin cites the fact that giving false answers to enumerators, or refusing to answer their questions, is punishable by a fine of \$100.

KANSAS "WARNING OUT" LAW

Old Statute May Be Revived in War on Chinch Bug, Great De-

Topeka, Kan.—An old statute of Kansas which empowers county officials with the authority to call out all men, women and children from 12 to 65 years old to fight noxious insects, may be invoked this summer when the chinch bug, the great destroyer of growing corn, makes his appearance in Kansas.

The law, known as the "warning out" law, was passed in 1877, soon after the grasshopper raid. While its direct aim was to provide a means by which the ravages of these crop devastators could be stopped, it is not limited in its scope and can be made to apply to the raids of any insects in

Kansas.

Only those persons living in incorporated cities are exempt from the provisions of the law.

Gets Three-Cent Check.

Lenox, Mass.—The town of Lenox, home of the largest summer resort colony of millionaires in New England, has received from the state treasurer a check for three cents as its share of the corporation tax paid into the state treasury during the last year.

BIOLOGY PERIL TO GRAMMAR

Study of Grasshoppers and Tadpoles
Takes Up Too Much Time of
School Children.

New York.—John J. Fox, chairman of local school board No. 26, borough of the Bronx, has discovered a peril—a perfectly new peril. Prominent in it is the tadpole, abetted by the grasshopper and backed up by the caterpillar. Mr. Fox finds that our school children study such things too much,

neglecting what is really worth while.

The other night he introduced a resolution before the board of which he is chairman asking that it be adopted and a copy sent to the board of

education. The resolution reads:

"Resolved, That we, the members of local school board No. 26, having in mind the interest of the parents and the welfare of the children, do hereby record our emphatic disapproval of that feature of our educational system which subordinates grammar to grass-hoppers, reading to caterpillars, spelling to golden rod, arithmetic to bullfrogs and penmanship to tadpoles.

"Resolved, That we attribute to these and other equally reprehensible fads the atrocious English that is spoken by the school children of this city, within the very shadow of our grammar schools, from the lips of boys and girls old enough to speak correctly the language of the country of their birth.

"Resolved, That the time has come when the taxpayers and parents should inaugurate a movement for the extirpation from our school system of all the nonsensical fads that have crept into it during the last few years and which inure only to the benefit of those who teach the subjects, write the text-books or profit by their publication."

But, alas, today the tadpole is jubilant; the grasshopper is breaking all records for running and standing jumps and the caterpillar wriggles defiantly throughout the land. Local school board No. 26 killed Mr. Fox's resolution.

BLIND BOY IN SCHOOL TEST

Sightless Lad, 17 Years Old, Conjugates Latin Verbs and Does Interest Problems.

Roxbury, Mass.—Headmaster D. O. S. Lowell of the Roxbury Latin school has just been very much surprised at the request of a 13-year-old blind boy, William Clement Plunkett, who wanted to take the entrance examinations of the school.

He was still more surprised, upon reading the examination papers, to find that Piunkett had won the third rank among 45 competitors. More than this, the boy showed himself able to skip a year's work, and he entered as a second year student. He is the son of Lieutenant Commander Charles P. Plunkett of the navy. Commander Piunkett was the executive officer of the battleship Georgia at the time of the explosion on board that vessel.

Every day, just like any other boy, Clement, for he is called by his middle name, takes his seat in the school-room to work out his arithmetic problems, write his compositions and conjugate his Latin verbs. He is taking the college preparatory course and expects to go through college in due time.

Except for the muffled whirr of his small portable typewriter, the sensitive groping of his long, delicate fingers about the desk, the visitor would hardly suspect that he was acquiring his education against tremendous odds. Yet he has not seen the steam or the locomotive that he studies about; nor the flowers that he reads of, since he was a child. He has never seen the football games, nor the basketball matches, the discussion of which continually busses around his ears.

unusually tall for his age, he is well proportioned and as straight as an arrow. His skin is fair and his face is not bronzed as that of the average young barbarian at the close of the summer vacation. Otherwise, except in the matter of sight, he is a wholly normal boy.

READS BIBLE ELEVEN TIMES

Maine Man of 80 is Remarkably Well Versed on Scriptures—Wishes a to Hold Record.

Bangor, Me.—Andrew J. Small of Rockland has read the Bible 11 times and is said to be remarkably well versed on the scriptures. The story goes that a traveling preacher stopped at his home one day and incidentally made the remark that he had read the Bible ten times.

"Is that so?" said Mr. Small. "I always declared that when I found any-body who had read it as many times as I had I would go through it once more."

which he promptly proceeded to

do.

Many who have thought themselves well versed in the sayings of the good book have confessed themselves hope lessly beaten after undertaking to quote it with Andrew Jackson Small now on the threshold of his eightieth year.

"Conscience Fund" Gains \$425.

New York.—The largest contribution to New York city's conscience fund ever received was reported by Comptroller Prendergast the other day. The money—\$425 in new bills—was brought to the comptroller by a Roman Catholic priest. He had received it, he said, from one of his parishioners who believed he had obtained it unfairly from the city. No further details were learned,

HOW OLD IS EARTH?

Scientists Now Make It Out as 400,000,000 Years of Age.

However, You Can Figure It Out for Yourself According to New Discovery — Determined by Salt in Ocean.

Chicago.—The jealously guarded secret of Mother Earth's age has at last been revealed, and it was the ocean that gave her away; thus at one stroke solving a problem that has bid fair to be classed with a similar one concerning Ann, and answering the poet's baffled query as to what the wild waves are saying. As nearly as the scientists can make out now, they are shouting that Mother Earth is 400,000,000,000 years old.

This is the meaning of announcements made in contributions to the current issue of the Journal of Geology is sued recently from the University of Chicago Press. In more scientific and exact phraseology, the approximate age of the earth, it has been discovered, may be determined by dividing the amount of salt in the sea by the amount brought down each year by the rivers that empty into it.

Sir John Murray, Prof. Joly and M. Dubois stand forward as champions of the new method, and while others contributing to the discussion point out that there are differences of many millions of years in the various estimates, it is generally agreed that this is due to inaccuracies in chemical analyses of ocean and river waters, and that their method marks a distinct epoch in solving the question of the earth's age. This problem has an important bearing on theories of evolution, scientists point out, giving a clew to the rate at which development on the earth is taking place.

Geologists for centuries had tapped rocks and dug holes in search of a solution to their problem. Discovery that rocks and gravel in river beda contained less salt than in similar rock unworn by water was the first straw that pointed to the new method. The salt in the sea must have been washed there by rivers flowing into it the investigators argued, and they went forward to the next step.

Finding the amount of sait in the sea was only a matter of chemical analysis and calculation, and mathematicians who could map out the track of a comet over many hundred millions of miles soon determined this. The amount of sait brought down by the rivers in a year was more difficult, but not impossible of determination, the investigators found and for the rest it was only a matter of division.

H. S. Shelton is the keenest critic of the new method. After pointing out a number of places where error may creep into the calculations, he urges geologists to devote more time and care to their chemical analyses, as the method will be useful in checking calculations reached by the older methods.

He declares it valuable as the first serious attempt to get outside the old fashioned methods, which, he says have kept investigations of the problem within a vicious circle which has proved a barrier to progress.

WOMEN OF ORIENT WAKING UP

Mrs. Fairbanks Says Court Ladles
Wore French Creations When
They Entertained Her.

New York.—Mrs. Charles Warren Fairbanks, wife of the former vice-president of the United States, just back from their round-the-world trip, declared in an interview given out here the other day that she found in every country she visited a wonderful awakening among women.

"The change is most notable in China and Japan," said Mrs. Fairbanks. "The Chinese women are forging rapidly to the front, and it won't be long before they are heard from in alliance with the women of

other countries.

"The Japanese women are by no means cumberers of the ground. The lower classes do everything that men do, working beside them in the field, carrying bricks and mortar, and assisting in all the labors of the stronger

"I was particularly impressed by the empress of Japan. She wears European dress, and not only she, but all the ladies of the court were gowned in Paris creations when they entertained

Cat Came Back.
Glasboro, N. J.—When the home of
Postmaster Jacob E. Ware of Sickier
ville was destroyed by fire last April
the large tabby cat disappeared and
did not return until a day or two ago.
Mrs. Ware saw a strange looking object bouncing across the yard. In
vestigating, she found it to be a cat
with its head fast in a tin can. Removing the can with some difficulty,

she found her tabby, which disap-

peared over ten months ago.

Morgan Homestead a Park.

New York.—The old J. Pierpont Morgan homestead at Woodland's Lake, only a few miles north of the business section of New York city, is to be turned into a park. For many years the property has been rented to a dairyman, but the dairy has recently been closed by order of Mr. Morgan, and the work of turning the estate into a playground will be begun shortly.

ELEPHANT HAS DINNER CALL

When Animal Cannot Get Food by Whistling Into Beer Barrel She Hurls Bowling Ball.

New York.—Luna, the big elephant at the Bronx zoo, has found a new use for the big lignum vitae bowling ball the keeper has given her. Gunda, her husband, has a big cage in the other corner of the building, but Luna can never catch sight of him. So to amuse her and keep her from making too many eyes at Pete, the fat hippopotamus, whose cage is across the room, the keeper got her a bowling ball bigger than a man's head.

Luna never learned to bowl, and the round, hard, inedible thing was a curiosity to her.

When they put an empty beer barrel in her cage for her to play with she solved the mystery by finding that if she blew into the bung hole it made a whistling noise that attracted the attention of Pete and sometimes woke him out of an afternoon nap, but this hard, round, polished ball was no good as far as she could see.

It was continually under her feet, and when she lay down at night it was always under her and necessitated her moving to some other corner.

Now Luna is particular about her meals. If her hay isn't brought at the precise moment she toots and trumpets and makes a fuss, and as the visitors like to hear her toot and the keepers don't care, it doesn't hurry her dinner any.

The other day when she got hungry and ordered her dinner and it didn't come she flew into a passion and walked rapidly about spluttering and tooting. Suddenly her feet touch the big bowling ball. She picked it up and fairly hurled it against the wall with all her force.

"Bangety-bank-whang!" it went, bounding from side to side and filling the elephant house with clamor. She stopped, amazed, and picked it up again.

"Bang-whang-bangety-bang!" went the ball, and the keepers, thinking that she was tearing down the pen, came on the run.

Seeing that at last she had attracted attention she kept throwing the ball with energy till the keeper brought her dinner. Now, when she wants to eat she throws the ball against the wall until her order is brought, and it always comes in a hurry.

OLD CUSTOM KEPT IN LONDON

Six Ponderous Horseshoes, of Ancient Date, Tendered as Quit Rent for Smithy.

London.—Six ponderous horseshoes, more than 500 years old, have been tendered to the crown by the city of London corporation by way of quit rent for a bygone smithy in the Strand, and at the same time the city solicitor counted out 61 nails, which the king's remembrancer pronounced to be "good number."

The scene of the ceremony was the royal courts of justice and among the crowds of interested onlookers were the lady mayoress and her two daughters. The corporation also did feudal service for a piece of land in Shropshire.

Originally the crown demanded two knives by way of quit rent, but when the corporation bought the land it substituted for the knives a sharp hatchet and a dull billhook, and these were offered this year. The sharpness of the hatchet and the bluntness of the billhook were duly attested by the city solicitor upon a bundle of twigs.

By a pious fraud the horseshoes and nails are handed back to the city every year to be presented afresh, but the hatchet and billhook are often renewed, and this year they were presented as a souvenir to the lady mayoresa.

WOMAN HIDES MONEY IN HAIR

Cash Concealed in "Rat" Overlooked by Robber in His Search for Valuables.

Kansas City, Kan.—The "rats" which many women still wear in their coffures, and which have been a source of disparaging comment by men, possess some worth after all. At least Mrs. Frank West of 11 North Babtimore avenue be lieves so. The other night she visited a neighbor across the street from her home, but before going placed \$75 in currency in the folds of a "rat" in a dresser drawer. She stuck a number of side combs in the mass of hair and money and left, feeling that her "bank" was thief proof.

When she returned home shortly after nine o'clock she found her house in a turmoil. Dresser drawers were pulled out and the contents scattered over the floor. Dresser drawers were pulled out and the contents scattered over the floor. Rugs were pulled up and the pockets of clothing were turned wrong side out. A thief evidently had been looking for money.

Mrs. West hurried to the dresser, where she had left the money, and found "rat," cash and side combs all safe.

Wins Pancake Marathon.

Elyria, O.—In a pancake eating contest, William Rudy succumbed to the superior capacity of William Myers, his fellow employe at the Elyria iron and steel plant. The men ate to decide a wager.

Rudy quit at the twenty-ninth flap-

jack. Myers had eaten 31 at that time.
Th winner said he was nowhere near
his limit when his opponent quit.

MADE THE AUDIENCE LAUGH

Singer's Selection of Ditty for an Encore Was Too Manifestly Inappropriate.

During the present musical season much popularity has been gained by a little song with the odd title, "It Is Not Raining Rain to Me; It's Raining Violet." It is a tuneful bit of melody and has been used for encore purposes with great success. It was during a recent recital that the quaint bit attained real distinction. The affair took place at the Rittenhouse on a wet, blustering evening, and as the night wore on the storm increased to the proportions of a blizzard. The wind arose until its roar blended weirdly with the music and the intermissions were punctuated by boisterous clatterings of hallstones against the windows. During the tenor solo by Paul K. Harper the storm reached the height of its fury and the applause which followed his effort was mingled with shrill echoings of the storm king's wreath.

As the singer arose for an encore a perfect deluge of rain smote the windows and when the orchestra struck up the tinkling prelude of the familiar air a smile broke over the audience.

"S-s-awish!" went the torrent out-

de.

"B-r-r-!" shivered the audience.
"It is not raining rain—" began the tenor, but it was too much for even the politest of audiences and a storm of laughter followed that even included the soloist.—Pittsburg Gazette-Times.

IRISH VS. ITALIAN METHOD

Former is Decidedly the More Effective, Taking the Related incident as Proof.

Rev. Sanford Culver Hearn, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church, Yonkers, is relating a street-car incident which concerns a conductor, an Irishman and an Italian. Each had given a dime to the fare-taker, but had received no change.

"I wanta da nick," complained the Neapolitan.

"You've got your nick. No more nicks for you. See?" And the conductor moved to the rear platform. The Italian sat meekly in silence, but the Irishman employed different

tactics. He went to the doorway.

"Gimme five cints change," said he
to the conductor.

"You've got all the change you're

going to get," was the retort,
"See here," exclaimed the Irishman,
"you may play that chune on a hand
organ, but you can't do it on a harp!
Gimme five cints."

And he got it.—Judge.

He Could Not Recommend It.

The editor of the Plunkville Argus was seated at his desk, busily engaged in writing a fervid editorial on the necessity of building a new walk to the cemetery, when a battered specimen of the tramp printer entered the office, "Mornin', boss!" said the caller. "Got

any work for a 'print'?"

"I have," answered the editor. "You happened in just right this time. I've got only a boy to help me in the office and I need a man to set type for about a week. I have to make a trip out west. You can take off your coat and begin right now. I start to-morrow morning."

"All right," said the typographical tourist, removing his coat. "What road are you going to travel on?"

"The K, Y. & Z, mostly. I've never been on it. Know anything about it?"
"I know all about it. I've traveled it from one end to the other."

"What kind of a road is it?"
"Punk!" said the printer, in a tone indicative of strong diaguat. "The ties are too far apart!"—Youth's Companion.

Russian Wheat Production. An enormous crop of wheat has been grown in Russia this year, placing that land for the first time at the head of wheat-growing countries. Its harvest of 788,000,000 bushels exceeds that of the United States by 26,000,000: bushels, and is greater than its own: previous record by about 100,000,000 bushels. The development of wheat growing has been most rapid along the line of the Trans-Biberian railway. As the home consumption is small in proportion to population, this has made Russia one of the great sources of supply for the rest of the world. France consumes much of the wheat that it grows. The present price of wheat in the United States, when placed against the surplus product of Russia, makes it more difficult for this

Unfairly Taken Up.

John W. Gates was discussing his address before a Methodist conference, wherein he advocated hard work and condemned gambling.

country to hold its place as an ex-

porter of that cereal.

and condemned gambling.

"The papers," said Mr. Gates, with his good-humored smile, "are taking me up for that address. Fil have to be careful what I say.

"I'll have to be as careful as the young Altoons viveur who was sued for breach of promise because, "t supper after the theater, he asked his lady friend if she would have a little-lobeter."

Has a Balleon Record.

The Hon. Mrs. Assheton Harbord is an Englishwoman who has a balloon record not likely to be soon equaled by any other woman. She has crossed the English channel in a balloon, and has made over a hundred ascents, besides taking part in six balloon races. She owns two balloons, which are "stabled" near Batterses.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

And its Louis and the last the Bade like neblietts after done ar commons due arestacus; exceptionnelle. Och de l'aboundment les Fandille Participants de l'aboundment les Fandilles produces de Bade.