

# SIXTH SENSE WINS

### Blind Student Absorbs Words as They Are Read.

#### Takes Difficult Course in Medicine and Surgery without Study Through Telepathy—Can Read Minds of His Friends.

Chicago.—Blind from birth, but able to take the difficult course of medicine and surgery without study, through telepathy, is the remarkable assertion made by J. W. Bolotin, a student in the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery. Bolotin, a young Russian, asserts that through a sixth sense, which he cannot explain, he can read the minds of his friends and classmates and in that manner acquire from them the knowledge they obtained through hard study.

H. Wolk, a room mate of the mysterious blind student, declared that after completing his studies for an evening Bolotin, even though no conversation had passed between them, would be more familiar with the subject which he had been reading than himself.

Jake, as Bolotin is called by his friends, does not believe his power is anything supernatural, or anything beyond what any man could do if he would think instead of being superficial. The unusual mental powers of the young blind student have made him the marvel of the medical school. He has only recently matriculated, and the students and faculty are astounded at his gift.

In the dissecting room the correspondent was directed by a student to the "man who doesn't have to study," who was at that moment the center of an admiring group talking with him over his ability to read their minds. He instantly recognized the correspondent as a stranger and stopped him in the middle of his request for an interview to tell him he knew he wanted to make an appointment after the class had adjourned. A few minutes later he came down the stairs to the entrance with his partner, Dr. Wolk, and without hesitation said: "There's the man over there waiting for us."

Seated on a bench in the corner of the locker room of the school he told the reporter of his struggle to procure knowledge, to learn not only the regular sciences of medicine, but his specialty of osteopathy.

"I don't want charity or sympathy," he said. "I am better off and happier than many people who are not blind. I have always earned my own living and expect to be able to keep on doing so."

The correspondent was preparing to ask if he professed to read the minds of others when Dr. Bolotin broke in with: "Well, there's nothing supernatural or uncanny about that. I don't claim to be an expert at mind reading, and there are only a few persons with whom I am successful. The whole thing is very largely a matter of memory and sound reasoning, anyway. With Wolk here I get along very nicely. We have been associated and understood each other thoroughly."

"Is it true that Wolk reads to himself and you understand what he is reading?"

"Yes," said both men at once. "We do that," said Wolk. "I will sit close to Dr. Bolotin and go over the text, and the next day he will appear in class and make a better showing than I do."

"Wolk and myself have known each other since childhood. He always said he would be a physician. I absorbed the same ambition from him. When we used to play together I soon learned what Wolk was thinking about. He soon went to school and used to tell me what he was studying. He used to sit by my side and read. I soon found out that I could tell what he was reading. At first it was not always connected, but as the years went by I got so that whatever was in Wolk's mind would flash through mine. When he decided to study medicine I became possessed of the same ambition. We entered the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery a few weeks ago and I intend to use Wolk's mind until I finish the course."

Wolk corroborated every statement made by Bolotin. To test their claims further the correspondent asked Wolk to read a story from an afternoon newspaper, which he did without uttering a sound. When he had finished, Bolotin said: "You have read about the Greek navy rebels." He then went on to give the details of the dispatch from Athens.

### Make Bridegroom Walk.

Bloomsburg, Pa.—Because he got married without notifying his friends, Carl Grimes of Millville was taken from his bride as they were driving to their home and left alone in the country road. It was a three-mile walk home and he had to walk.

Meanwhile the friends, who had driven the bride to the home, were waiting with a band to welcome the tired bridegroom after his long walk through the snow and with a stiff, cold wind blowing in his face.

### Rare Autographs Sold.

Paris.—The peculiar differences in the value of autographs of great persons was disclosed when a half page written by Balzac brought only \$7.60, a letter of Anne of Austria, wife of Louis XIII., \$15, and an autograph of Henry IV., \$23.

The highest price of all was given for a specimen of Franklin's handwriting, \$41, and the next for one of Robert Fulton's, which brought \$25.

# END OF FOREST FIRE SEASON

### Conditions Made Period Practically as Long and Dangerous as Great as During Last Year.

Missoula, Mont.—With the coming of snow in the hills the fire season is practically at an end. In national forest district No. 1, covering all of Idaho north of Salmon river, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota and Michigan, the total cost of extinguishing forest fires for the past season has been a little over \$15,000, as against approximately \$30,000 in 1908.

Climatic conditions made the fire season practically as long and the danger as great as during last year. The reduction in fire expenditures has been at least partly due to the increased patrol on the national forests. The number of forest guards and rangers for 1909 was about thirty per cent greater than 1908.

Co-operation with the state fire warden and protective agreements with associations of lumber companies increased this force to the extent that the greater portion of badly infested fire territory was patrolled. The railroads, too, have assisted by patrolling their rights of way, notifying forest officers of fire, and by furnishing crews in case of fires. The effectiveness of this combined co-operation against a common danger is conclusively shown by the fact that over 200 small fires were put out on the Coeur d'Alene national forest alone.

Serious damage occurred on only one forest. The Kaniku, located in northern Idaho and extreme eastern Washington, has within its boundary lines an enormous area of heavily timbered, inaccessible country which is totally unequipped with trails. This condition made it extremely difficult to reach the fire promptly and extremely difficult to bring men and supplies to the large fires which were driven by high wind. The cost of this fire represents three-fourths of the total expenditures, or about \$10,000. In this fire about ten miles of fire lines were built and 100 men were employed.

# SAY COCKNEY TALK MUST GO

### Mode of Speech, with Its Unpleasant "Twang," Is Modern Corruption—English to Be Taught.

London.—The London county council has issued the report of a conference on the teaching of English in London elementary schools, the purpose of which is that "cockney" must go.

Dr. F. S. Boas was the chairman of the conference, which included district inspectors, head masters, head mistresses, examiners and Prof. Gollancz. It met for the first time on December 17, 1906, and held sessions at short intervals during the school terms until November 11, 1908.

The conference insists that London has a special responsibility for the maintenance of a satisfactory standard of English as spoken or a literary medium. Whereas a country pupil loses something by abandoning his dialect, the London pupil has no dialect of reputable antecedents.

"The cockney mode of speech, with its unpleasant 'twang' is a modern corruption without legitimate credentials," the report says, "and is unworthy of being the speech of any person in the capital city of the empire."

As matters are arranged at present there are only eight hours available for the study of English in the school week, and the conference thinks that ten hours should be devoted to the subject by boys between seven and 11 years of age, and then nine until they are 14. Girls should have an hour longer every week.

# OLD BEE WIZARD IS IMMUNE

### Receives But One Sharp Resentment in Seventy Years of Familiarity With Insects.

Pennsburg, Pa.—Joseph R. Mumbauer, Sr., of Kumry, near here, now nearly 80, is the oldest and most fearless bee handler in the Perkiomeno valley, having been a friend of honey gatherers since childhood. He holds the remarkable record of having lived bees for seventy years, without a mask of any kind, and of receiving but one sting, and that from a new Italian swarm which he had bought many years ago, the members of which did not know their kind wizard friend.

Mr. Mumbauer comes from a family whose members for nearly 200 years, were noted for their bee loving propensities, his grandparents on both sides, as well as his uncles, having been apiarists. The old man has had as high as 78 hives and still looks after 28. He makes his own hives and baskets, which are a marvel of simplicity and ingenuity, claiming that baskets are preferable because not one of his swarms has died of cold when housed in them.

The old bee wizard has taken many tons of honey from his busy workers.

# Divorced Woman "Husband"

San Francisco.—Dr. Alice Bush of Oakland, well known physician and daughter of Tax Collector Bush of San Francisco, was granted a divorce recently on the unusual plea of fraud in marriage contract. In plain words, Dr. Bush found that she had married a woman and applied for an annulment of the marriage contract, which was granted. Her husband was R. K. Morgan, a fine-looking medical student of 23, who came here from New York. He wasn't over half Dr. Bush's age, but the two were constantly together. They were married in 1904.

# HAD CHARMED LIFE

### Mexican Veteran Fought Against His Father and Brothers.

#### Pennsylvanian Now Ninety Years Old Helped Storm Vera Cruz Away Backed in '40's, and Faced Numerous Civil War Perils.

Bloomsburg, Pa.—One of the few survivors in Pennsylvania of the Mexican war of 1846-48, a veteran of the civil war, a man who has fought in 27 battles, was thrice wounded, holds four honorable discharges, and who, when but a lad, saw much of the civilized world, is John Sylvester Myers of Lime Ridge, Columbia county, now 90 years of age, but who looks easily 20 years younger.

Few men have had such an experience as this old man, who fought with the union army because he believed its cause to be right, while his father, who disowned him because of his loyalty, fought, with seven other sons, for the lost cause of the rebellion. And from that day, Myers, whose father owned 1,500 slaves, has seen neither father nor brother.

A rover from boyhood, he left home, near St. Louis, when but 11 years of age, and going down the Mississippi on a small boat to the Gulf of Mexico, shipped as a cabin boy on an English bound vessel. Three trips he made, and in 1834 left the vessel and struck out through Germany, Switzerland, Russia, Italy and France. In the last named country he was arrested and it was charged that he was there in the service of another country. His father's money and influence purchased his release.

At the outbreak of the Mexican war he enlisted as a marine and was one of those who scaled the walls of Vera Cruz. From there the vessel upon which he was taken to the scene of war was sent to China, and Myers went along.

He attempted to settle down to every-day life and located at Danville, but the wander-lust soon gripped him and it was only a month or two until he had enlisted with the government to do teaming from Omaha to California. In that service three years, he made six trips through the Indian frontier and figured in many a fight with them.

He was one of the first to respond when President Lincoln issued a call for men, and he was captured in the Shenandoah valley in 1862, but the confederates left so small a guard over their prisoners that the latter set upon them, and killing them, effected their escape.

He participated in nearly all the most important battles of the war. At North Ann river, where he helped build a pontoon bridge, the Union forces were surrounded, and the order was given to destroy the bridge. Eighty-five men were detailed to do the work. A death toll of 83 was claimed, and Myers was one of the two who escaped.

While the forces were lying before Petersburg there occurred an incident which he will never forget. One of the guards doing duty at the home of Dr. Samuel Withers, a supposedly northern adherent, but a confederate at heart, complained of feeling ill, and Myers was ordered to provost duty. The night before two guards had been found with their throats cut, and Myers was more than ordinarily cautious that night.

It was almost midnight when he saw something moving outside the house that resembled a Newfoundland dog. Challenging the object three times and receiving no answer, he fired, and then running over, struck the object a terrific blow on the head. It was Dr. Withers, a large razor in one hand, his form enveloped in a buffalo robe, dead. Myers was court-martialed and acquitted.

In the battle of Fort Harrison, in a hand-to-hand encounter, he was struck in the mouth with the butt of a confederate musket. He ran his bayonet through the man who had struck him, killing him instantly; but Myers still carries the scar of that encounter.

In the battle of Fredericksburg his clothing was shot into shreds and his caisson shot off his person, but he was unharmed. In the battle of the Wilderness he was not so fortunate, however, for he was shot below the knee, and lay on the field four days before he was found. He was finally mustered out of service March 17, 1866, at Philadelphia. Many years he spent in traveling; but for some time has been living quietly, as befits his years, at Lime Ridge.

Mr. Myers is a Frenchman by birth, and his grandfather came to this country with Lafayette and served as a cavalryman.

# Shaving a Prophylactic Plan.

London.—"Clean Shaving as a Prophylactic Measure," is the subject of an article in the Lancet. The matter was brought up by a contributor noticing that clean shaven persons enjoy immunity to cold or are less frequently attacked than those who cultivate the mustache. The Lancet says the mustache affords a nursery for organisms, whereas the daily shave acts as a regular antiseptic.

# Grasp at Party Kills Girl.

Doylesstown, Pa.—Miss Edna Weiss of Warminster, 14 years old, died of blood poisoning from a breaking of the ligaments in her shoulder. She attended a party and was suddenly drawn by a companion from her seat to take part in one of the games.

# BUILD STEEL WAR BALLOONS

### Metal Aircraft to Carry Twenty Passengers, Sleeping Bunks and Two Aeroplanes.

Vienna.—At the Daimler Motor works here a dirigible balloon of soft steel is being built. Instead of using rubber and silk, like Capt. Thomas S. Baldwin, the American airship builder, or aluminum, like Count von Zeppelin, Herr von Walach, the Austrian inventor, makes his entire gas balloon of steel.

Though the craft is well advanced in construction, details are carefully guarded. Its size cannot be learned, but it is known that the steel walls of the balloon will be a little over a half inch thick and consist of many 39x39 plates. All the plates are welded in annular form by an electrical process.

The balloon is of the familiar cigar shape, painted with a specially invented mixture to make it airtight and is covered with a silk paper, instead of silk cloth to reduce friction.

The estimated weight of the balloon is over 28,000 kilos and of the gasoline engine fuel about 2,500 kilos. This fuel will enable the ship to sail 24 hours.

Following the Zeppelin principle, the gas reservoir is to have three compartments to enable the craft to keep afloat in case any one compartment is injured. This feature is in line with the decision reached by the French aeronautic engineer in building the new army airships.

The car is to accommodate 20 passengers as well as extra ballast in the form of two aeroplanes of the Farman type. All arrangements will be made to provide cooked food for passengers and crew, which will be prepared on board. There will also be miniature salons and sleeping bunks.

It is proposed to carry aeroplanes to use them in case of war like torpedo craft. The great airship itself is regarded by the inventor as a large ironclad. It will naturally be able to resist attack that would destroy rubber or aluminum craft, and will be so constructed that it can ram aerial opponents.

Being made of steel, it can hold gas far better than any other vessel. It is not so affected by changes in the atmosphere, which cause contraction and expansion, and will lose only a small percentage of its buoyancy in a year.

# DANCING IN ANCIENT TIMES

### Pennsylvania Lecturer Declares That Egyptian Kings of Old Used Modern Stage Methods.

Philadelphia.—High kicking and all other up-to-the-minute "stunts" and gyrations practiced by chorus girls of Broadway musical shows are not of modern invention. In fact, all such forms of amusement and many others, ordinarily believed to be the original productions of twentieth century theatrical geniuses, were known by the people of ancient Egypt thousands of years ago.

These were statements of W. Max Muller in his lecture on "The Time of the Pyramid Builders."

In proof of his declarations, Mr. Muller exhibited several photographs of inscriptions and drawings unearthed from the tombs and temples of the ancient Egyptian kings along the Nile.

Several of these showed the palaces of the kings of that day in holiday time. About the courts were groupings of girls—"just as there are today on the stage," Mr. Muller declares. "And as far as costuming and the use of an orchestra, and all the other attributes of modern comic opera are concerned," he added, "we certainly have nothing on them."

In addition to an interesting description of the pyramids themselves, and the manner and cost of their building, Mr. Muller showed the ancient processes as employed in Egypt, of brewing beer. "The kings of the sixth dynasty must have been fond of their beer," he said, "if the number of carvings and inscriptions found are any evidence."

# FAMILY RECORD TO 536 A. D.

### Clergyman Dead in Pennsylvania Descended from Mickletus, Royal Court Treasurer.

Carlisle, Pa.—The Rev. J. Marlon Mickle, one of the best known divines in the Reformed church, who died in Carlisle, was descended from Mickletus, court treasurer to the Frankish king, Chlodwig, before 536 A. D. The French name of the family originally became known as De Michelet.

The career of the Rev. J. Marlon Mickle, who was 75 years of age, included an extensive civil war record as chaplain with many commands. He served on the staffs of Generals Sheridan and Thomas, and later in the wars against the Apache Indians on Gen. Crook's staff.

His principal pastoral service was in Akron, Ohio, where he served at Grace Reformed church.

# Big Ranch for English Boys.

London.—With the intention of giving boys of Bradford college, Berkshire, after completing their school course, an opportunity of acquiring practical knowledge of farming and ranching conditions in Alberta, Dr. Gray, the warden, and president of the educational section of the British association, has purchased a ranch of 3,000 acres near Calgary.

# COAL IN MARTHAS VINEYARD

### Vast Field Discovered Which May Produce Hard Coal Enough to Supply New England.

Boston, Mass.—The Bay state's only coal mine, the location of which has been known to but a few, while the fact of its being operated has been a carefully guarded secret, may soon produce hard coal in sufficient quantity to supply the wants of all New England.

A vast field of coal is to be found on the shores of Marthas Vineyard, declare the present owners of the mine, and the near future will see a new mammoth industry called to life in Massachusetts, they predict.

The coal mine, or rather the clay pits where the coal has been discovered, is located at Makoniky, Marthas Vineyard, and the owners are George Allen Matthews and his son Ray. It lies about nine miles from the town of Oak Bluffs on a precipitous stretch of the island shore, and can be reached only by the most circuitous route over the roads knee deep with fine sand, and only a few of the residents of the island are aware of its existence.

Several years ago, when Mr. Matthews, with his son, was engaged in the real estate business at Makoniky and Oak Bluffs, he purchased a 290 acre shore lot for the purpose of exploiting the rumors that the land contained a supply of merchantable clay.

Much to the owner's astonishment, a few months after work had begun the workmen began to strike frequent strata of what appeared to be a sort of reddish-brown charcoal. Geologists were called in, and it was discovered that there were promising evidences of coal lying near the clay pit and in the hills near the shore the entire length of the property. From that moment dates the history of the new coal discovery.

Recently 75 tons of this fuel, called lignite, have been taken from the ground at Makoniky and used in firing the brick kilns. No borings have been made as yet to find the coal formations, which, it is asserted by geologists, lie in all probability all along the Matthews property.

It is declared that there may be hundreds of thousands of tons of anthracite coal waiting to be mined.

The upper strata of lignite now found in the clay pit represent the younger formation of coal, and as such are still in a condition of hardening, which renders lignite only of practical service as fuel when mixed with bituminous coal. But as a fuel in making gas it has been pronounced by experts to be even more serviceable and cheaper than soft coal, since it contains a greater quantity of gaseous products. Lignite gives off 5,000 heat units a pound and burns 30 per cent ash, which, in comparison with the ordinary soft coal, is below the practical standard.

# HEALTH WALK AIDS PUPILS

### Observations Show That Gain in Weight Follows the Trips Afoot Taken By Children.

Berlin.—The union of the Berlin School of Physicians has been investigating the effect of open-air walking on the health of school children. Dr. Ralder has presented a report on the subject. He examined the school children before and after a walking tour to see whether the favorable results of such a trip were only subjective or whether objective benefit resulted. Fifty-six pupils were sent on walking trips in three groups, each under the leadership of a teacher. On an average the children walked from ten to twenty miles a day.

They were given coffee, milk, and white bread for breakfast. During the day they got bread and butter. In the evening they were given a warm dinner. One series of well-nourished, strong children did not change weight during the six days' tour. A small number either lost weight or gained from one to three pounds. The results of the tour were strongly manifested some time after it was over. During the following three months 50 of the 56 children gained from three to twenty-two pounds in weight. From this it would appear, says Dr. Ralder, that the violent muscular exercise stimulated the organism to increased metabolism and more rapid growth.

Of especial interest, the investigation says, are the facts developed by the comparison of nine girls who made the tour with twelve from the same school who had not been on the trip, but who had taken vacations at the same time. The girls who had walked gained six and seven-tenths pounds during the next three months.

# Money in Furs.

Kennebec, Me.—Maine fur-bearing animals will be in demand this winter, as the prices for pelts are unusually high. A good mink skin will bring from seven to eight dollars; a darker fisher pelt is worth about \$20, and a good otter skin anywhere from \$15 to \$30. While there are other parts of the world that furnish more mink, otter and fisher pelts than Maine, many of these little animals are caught in this state every season.

# Emergency Fund for Workmen.

Stockholm, Sweden.—At the labor party's congress, which has just closed its sessions, Herman Linquist was re-elected president. It was decided to have always on hand an emergency fund of 1,000,000 crowns (\$270,000). Confidence was voted in the leaders of the various departments into which the work of the party is divided.

# HOSPITAL AT ZOO

### Squirrels Severely Bitten by Large Rat First Patients.

#### Fox, Kangaroo and Ixex also Receiving Treatment—Scarcely an Ill That Afflicts Mankind Not Found in Collection.

London.—A large and savage rat recently found its way into the inclosure where the zoo's gray squirrels live. Before it could be found and destroyed five of the graceful little fellows had been badly bitten and were discovered with angry wounds showing through their pretty, bedraggled coats.

These squirrels were the first patients at the zoo's new hospital, a beautifully equipped, red brick building just behind the reptile house, which has just started its career of usefulness. Just like the London or any other modern hospital, the floors are constructed of easily cleaned cement with curved corners. Ten airy, warmed cages are situated on the ground floor, while the upper part of the hospital is composed of two well-lit, cheerful wards with glass roofs, where the smaller birds and animals will be treated.

Thither the little injured squirrels were conveyed, their hurts were dressed with antiseptics and they are now almost fully recovered.

The need for such an institution in the gardens is undoubted. There is no more pathetic sight in the world than that of a savage animal attacked by a mortal disease. The wild, powerful creature, its coat streaked with sweat and its muscles quivering with anguish, will not submit to the well-meant ministrations of its keepers or of the medical expert, and refuses the food in which, perhaps, healing or soothing drugs are hidden. It only demands to be left alone. When free, the merciless mer of the jungle or desert would insure speedy relief from its sufferings, the fangs or claws of its fellows.

In the zoological gardens, hitherto it has seldom been possible to do anything in such cases but to let the animal in its den, watched by various visitors, and allow nature take its course until an expert's certain diagnosis of a fatal termination permits the use of the final kind of strychnine or a bullet.

The hospital's case book so far includes:

- Five gray squirrels.
One fox.
Two kangaroos.
One infant Ixex.

The fox went there afflicted with a painful cancer of the ear. The savage little creature was secured by means of a noose on the end of a pole, which was gradually pulled "taut." He betrayed no disposition to snap, so a muzzle was dispensed with and the ear was dressed as swiftly as possible.

A disfiguring skin disease has attacked one of the kangaroos and his mate has been placed with him until it is certain she has not also contracted the same trouble. Had the pair been left in the cages they would have "noised" their healthy neighbors in a friendly way and probably started an epidemic. Curiously enough, the baby Ixex has also an affection of the coat.

Scarcely a single ill that mankind is subject to but has its parallel among the beasts of the zoo. Many diseases, indeed, have been carried to them by human infection—notably chest troubles and tuberculosis, which have been the scourge of the monkey house. The higher the beast in the scale of creation the more liable it is to contract disease from its human visitors.

That is the main reason why the most manlike brutes—the apes—are wisely shut off from their admirers by great sheets of plate glass. Otherwise a single influenza-stricken sneeze from a visitor might place every chimpanzee and orang-outang on the sick list.

A weak heart killed "Lobo," the great gray American timber wolf. It was diagnosed early last year from his distress after slight exertion. An iron tonic mixed with his meat in pill form pulled him round wonderfully, and he never refused his medicine. He died quietly during the night and his widow, "Blanco," swiftly told the news with her wailing lament.

Visitors were recently astonished to see a female tapir—that weird compromise between a pig and an elephant—wearing a heavy neckcloth. It was in reality a mild mustard plaster, which was tied round her neck to alleviate a homely complaint—mumps. All the symptoms were there—the glandular swelling, pain on mastication (she refused all food), and feverishness. To all intents and purposes it was human mumps and yielded to the same treatment, after the usual period—about a fortnight or three weeks.

In the case of powerful, savage brutes much which would do them good has to be left undone. When Eve, the full-grown chimpanzee, suffered from a skin trouble on her wrists and forearms she could not be properly handled for curative purposes, but whenever she strolled up to be fed the keeper patiently and quietly sprinkled the worst places with powder.

# Valuable Bird.

London.—Bred at Martham, Norfolk, a magpie pigeon has been sold for \$300, a record price for the breed, and, in gold, heavier than the bird itself.