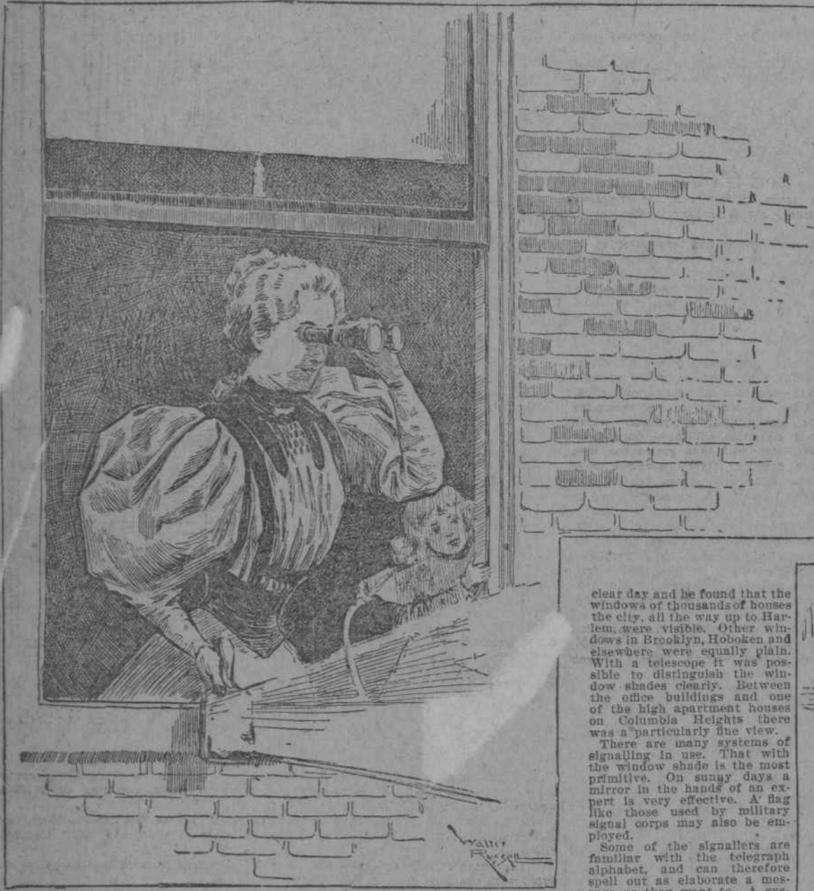


SIGNALLING FROM SUBURBAN HOMES TO NEW YORK OFFICES.

Sun Flashings from Mirrors Help Husbands and Wives to Communicate While Miles Separate Them.



With Sun Signals She Talks from Jersey with--

High buildings play a very peculiar and a very important part in the domestic life of the city. This is a fact with which many are familiar, but with which a much larger number are not. The apparently endless growth of these buildings in an upward direction is the most astonishing feature in the development of this city, and less astonishing is the use which has been found for them by affectionate wives and husbands. To find sentiment so linked with what at first sight would appear to be a most prosaic, and even depressing phase of our life, is a discovery that is at once exhilarating and a welcome confirmation of a great truth. It illustrates the saying that love makes the world go round and many others to the same effect. An observer of human nature, who rises early in the morning and notices several new signs in the position of a window shade in a neighboring house. His bedroom window looks north, and the other window south, or in the downtown direction. He caught a glimpse of a graceful figure, evidently belonging to the person who was adjusting the shade, but beyond looking at that he paid little attention. A day or two later, however, he noticed a similar movement of the shade. Evidently it was done in a systematic manner. He watched closely, and then, to his surprise, he saw a young woman, having finished her exercise with the shade, take a telescope and gaze intently in an upward direction. After a few moments she lowered the telescope, and it was noticeable that her face wore a satisfied expression.

Here was something for a student of life to investigate. He talked to all his friends, and soon learned from a man who works in a high office building downtown that many people were in the habit of signalling from these places to their homes. To test the possibility of this, the observer went to a room on the twenty-second story of a building at the corner of Nassau and Spruce streets. It was a fine, clear day and he found that the windows of thousands of houses the city, all the way up to Harlem, were visible. Other windows in Brooklyn, Hoboken and elsewhere were equally plain. With a telescope it was possible to distinguish the window shades clearly. Between the office buildings and one of the high apartment houses on Columbia Heights there was a particularly fine view. There are many systems of signalling in use. That with the window shade is the most primitive. On sunny days a mirror in the hands of an expert is very effective. A flag like those used by military signal corps may also be employed.

Some of the signallers are familiar with the telegraph alphabet, and can therefore spell out as elaborate a message as they want to. A system of long and short dashes with the window shade will, of course, make up an alphabet, but it is bad for that piece of furniture. A mirror will answer the same purpose, but it requires more skill to use and read one. The majority of people are content with a limited number of arbitrary signs, including common but important domestic events. These signs may be in general use or they may be agreed upon for a special occasion. For instance, in one household, two long dashes with the shade ordinarily mean "Mother will be here for dinner to-night and will stay three days." Then for a special occasion it was agreed that the shade pulled down to the bottom and kept there for a minute should mean: "A boy."

A young person who uses the telegraph code very effectively sent the following message the other day: "I've just got a beautiful leather and mahogany arm chair; such a bargain. I want you to come home and sit in it all the evening and I'll tell you how much it cost. And I bought some old silver things too ridiculously cheap to mention. And can't you send up a little money at once, so that we can have some dinner?" Here is a message of a peculiarly personal character, an example of a kind that is very often sent. "The washing has not come home to-day, and you had better stop downtown and buy yourself a shirt and collar if we are to go to Mrs. Brown's party this evening."

Of course all the messages do not come from the direction of the home. A message sent from the office frequently reads like this: "Philadelphia this evening on business. Love to mother. If he is an expert signaller he may say: 'I have been asked out to dine this evening by some men, and I am afraid I can't get out of it, because it may be important in a business way. Expect they will make me go to the theatre afterward, so don't sit up for me. Good night.'"

It will probably have struck the reader that this system could be employed by others than those who are already united in the bonds of matrimony. The reader will have guessed correctly. There may be a world of meaning in a disarranged window shade, and that meaning may be: "Papa is very bad humor to-night."

"I shall expect you this evening, and I will promise to freeze White Jones out as early as possible."

Here is a list of common phrases for signalling which may prove useful and suggestive. Expect they will make me go to the theatre afterward, so don't sit up for me. Good night."

"Bring a bottle of claret home with you."

"Baby has a new tooth."

"Send me an umbrella."

"No one to send."

"Bring a box of candy."

"Send a fish for dinner."

"Get some strawberries."

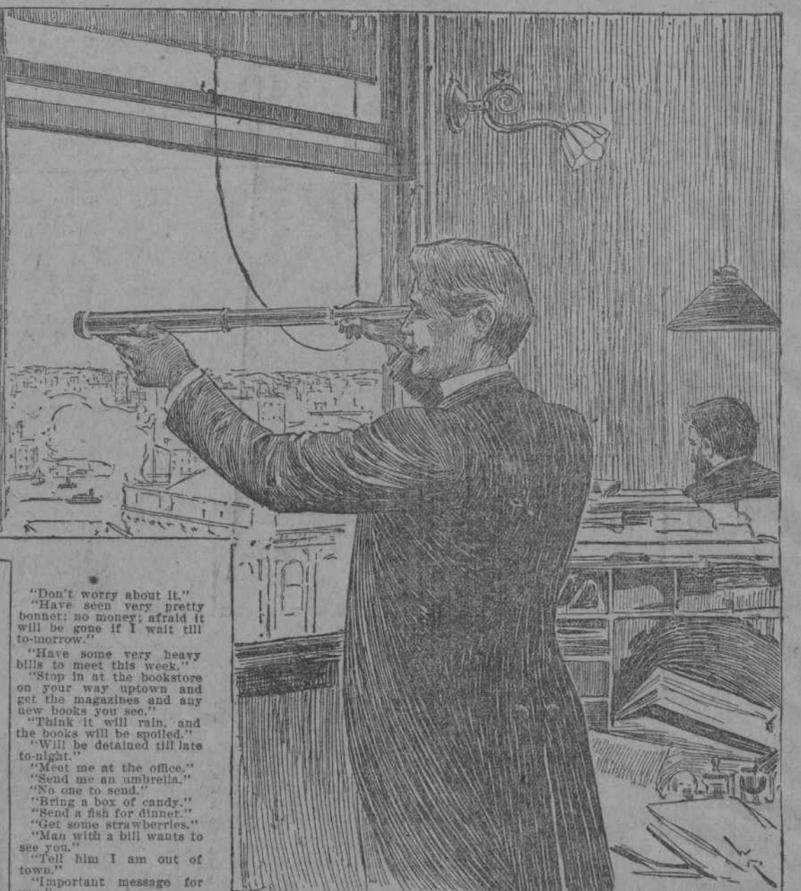
"Man with a bill wants to see you."

"Tell him I am out of town."

"Important message for you."

A gentleman who has an office on the top floor of a big building downtown is in almost constant communication during the day with his family, who live in Bayonne, down on New York Bay.

A regular code of signals has been adopted. A flag pole decorates the top of the house, and from this are flown various flags, each one of which means something. With the aid of a glass the flags can be plainly seen from New York. The system has been adopted for the fun of the thing alone, but it is of great advantage to the man in New York. His business is such that it is necessary for him to keep in touch with matters in Bayonne. The scheme is a good one, and is bound to increase in popularity.



Her Husband in His New York Office.

"Don't worry about it." "Have seen very pretty bonnet; no money; afraid it will be gone if I wait till to-morrow." "Have some very heavy bills to meet this week." "Stop in at the bookstore on your way uptown and get the magazines and any new books you see." "Think it will rain, and the books will be spoiled." "Will be detained till late to-night." "Meet me at the office." "Send me an umbrella." "No one to send." "Bring a box of candy." "Send a fish for dinner." "Get some strawberries." "Man with a bill wants to see you." "Tell him I am out of town." "Important message for you."

MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

How Surgeons in Large Cities Obtain Patients and Build Up a Practice. "Professional etiquette is very strictly observed by the medical fraternity," said a well-known physician the other day, "and very few realize how careful a doctor must be in order to keep in good standing. It is known in a general way that he is not allowed to advertise, but that is only one of the restrictions put upon him. Of course I speak of a member of the Medical Society, whose actions are pretty well known to the fraternity, and not of an outside doctor, who may do many of the tabooed things with impunity."

"Besides not being allowed to advertise, we are forbidden to be interviewed by the press, or even to write for it, on subjects pertaining to the medical profession, so if one is inclined to write about the interesting cases that come under his personal care the only avenue of publication he has is a medical journal of recognized authority and repute. "The great merit of this plan is that it brings to the medical journals the history of every case that is supposed to be worth recording. The physician, therefore, who is anxious to keep himself informed as to what is going on in his profession can do so by reading the medical journals—something he could not do if the cases were printed in newspapers scattered all over the country. "The medical journals would seem to receive more benefit from this restriction than the writers, for the flood of articles constantly pouring in sets a low standard value upon manuscripts. Indeed, the customary pay for an ordinary article is said to be twenty-five copies of the paper containing it. This compensation, however, is not so inadequate as it would seem, for many of the authors have an ulterior motive in writing up their cases. "The surgeon is different from the doctor, and in order to obtain any practice at all it is necessary for him to advertise himself in some way. The medical journal is the only means at his disposal, but it is an admirable one, for it brings him into touch with the very men who introduce him to new patients. "It is a fact not generally known to the outside public that a great many doctors in large cities will not undertake a surgical case for while they were obliged to study surgery in college, there is no law to compel him to practice it. When one of these doctors has a patient in need of an operation he transfers the case to a surgeon, and should he have no regular contract, he finds up his most successful friend in the operation in question. It is in this way that the surgeon is benefited by the articles he writes, and who he becomes so well known that he has a score or more of doctors on the lookout for calls for him to find himself in possession of a very lucrative practice."

LASHING MATCH FOR LOVE.

Two Italians Engage in a Sicilian Bastinado in a New Jersey Town.

A few miles outside the village of Franklin, N. J., to the south of the turnpike, there is an Italian settlement, which consists of Sicilian and Neapolitan laborers, who are employed along the neighboring railroad lines. The world rarely hears of this settlement and there are even old residents of Franklin who have never seen it, but the people are interesting and their customs are strange.

During the past week, however, there was an occurrence in this locality that attracted public attention to the place. It was as startling as it was unusual, and the few outsiders who witnessed it will never forget it.

Giuseppe Marano, a tall, lithe young Sicilian of this colony, was in love with Giulia Cianci, the daughter of Pasquale Cianci. Marano has been in this country four years and speaks English passably well. Giulia was fond of him in the Sicilian fashion, but was not averse to letting the light of her eyes shine upon every other good-looking chap that made love to her. Marano did not object to this in the abstract, but when it came to the case of young Cellardi, he began to suspect that that individual was getting more than a fair share of Giulia's smiles.

Cellardi, whose first name is said to be Joe, had only been in the colony a few months and had no friends. He was fond of Cianci's daughter, and, naturally, he despised Marano. Last week he insulted him, and that settled the matter.

A friend of Marano arranged all the preliminaries for a Sicilian bastinado, and both Marano and Cellardi agreed that the victor was to be allowed to woo Giulia in peace, while the vanquished left Franklin.

The meeting occurred on Monday. There were twenty-four spectators, all but four of whom were Italians. Old man Cianci was there, although he did not know at the time that his daughter was the prize of the combat.

Marano and Cellardi entered the circle stripped to the waist. Both were very pale, but each had his jaws set in grim determination to fight to the end.

One end of a rope was tied around the waist of Marano, the other end was tied around the waist of Cellardi. There was eight feet of rope between them, and neither could run away. A glove was put on the right hand of each, and then each received a long bamboo switch.

At a given signal they began to heave each other. At first they went at it carefully and tried to fence. This, Cellardi would make a feint, which Marano would bristle to parry, uncovering himself thereby to an unexpected side slash. And Marano would cut and thrust as well as he could, trying more to defend himself than hurt the other.

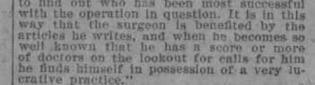
But a bamboo switch makes a bad fencing foil, and a few severe cuts on the arms and shoulders made each of them lose his temper. Then, like infuriated demons, they threw all caution aside and slashed each other with terrific force. It was a sickening sight. Marano, who was the taller, had a longer reach than his opponent and also seemed to have greater strength. His blows brought long, red ridges to Cellardi's flesh, from which the blood began to flow.

Cellardi was game. Blow after blow he struck, until Marano's shoulders and chest were one red patch. But Marano could endure it longer, and soon the spectators saw that Cellardi's blows were becoming weaker and weaker. Finally the switch dropped from his hands. Marano waited for him to recover it, but in stooping Cellardi fell, and, being too weak to rise, he lay there vanquished.

BETTER THAN SURGERY.

An X Ray Located the Needle and a Magnet Drew It Out of Her Hand.

A woman in Cherryfield, Me., has for a year suffered from strange pains in her arm. The Roentgen rays were brought into play and a needle was found imbedded in the fleshy part of her hand. It could have been removed by a surgeon, but pain and an ugly scar were inevitable. The lady was therefore taken to the new house of the Cherryfield Electric Light Company, where a powerful electric magnet was improvised and the long buried needle came slowly but safely from its hiding place, with little pain and no loss of blood.



Her Hand.

STEEL WAGON ROADS.

A Novel Improvement, with Parallel Gutter Filled in with Stone.

Ohio's State Road Commissioner has devised a wagon road of steel, which will be given a thorough trial in that and other states, notably near the Joplin lead mines of Missouri and the Galena mines of Kansas, where the hauling by wagon is very heavy. These roads consist of two steel gutters of boiler plate thickness, five inches wide, with a square, perpendicular shoulder half an inch high, then an angle of one inch upward, slightly raised.

The gutter forms a conduit for the water and leaves the track. Such a double track railroad, filled in with broken stone of macadam size, costs about \$6,000 per mile, as against \$7,000 for a macadam roadbed of the same width.



STEEL WAGON ROADS.

THE DEAD MADE VISIBLE.

An Invention by Which Their Faces Can Always Be Seen.

From time to time curious folk who do curious things have taken a fancy to keep with them on the surface of the earth the bodies of their dead, due to the horror to having them hidden forever from view. Dr. Thomas Holmes, of Brooklyn, observing this, devised means for meeting this objection. In the future the faces of the dead, according to Dr. Holmes's plan, may be at all times visible, and though six feet may separate the friends on the surface from the occupants of the grave, the faces of the latter will, by Dr. Holmes's arrangement, be visible at all times.

Dr. Holmes is the originator of the embalming process used in this country to-day. This latest invention of his is a glass coffin for the burial of human dead, which has some very odd features. The casket is six feet long and eighteen inches wide and deep. With the exception of the framework, which holds the edges of the glass, there is no wood used in the construction. The sides and top are both of plate glass. It is Dr. Holmes's intention and he has already given orders to a stained-glass manufacturer for the work, to have on the top of the casket scenes representing Biblical subjects. For instance, one of the pictures which will be placed on the coffins containing good men, will represent Father Time carrying a son across the desert, and a good woman blowing. In addition to the boat in the picture will be the Star of Bethlehem, and a myriad of white-robed angels gathered to welcome the spirit.

This is but one of the designs. Another will present the Resurrection Day, with the spirits rising from the earth and taking their flight to the better land. And each of the caskets will be embellished with suitable inscriptions from the Bible, all bearing on the subject of life and death. Aside from the superiority of a glass casket over metal or wood, the doctor claims that the former has vastly more artistic possibilities. It is air tight and will give powerful aid to the embalming process in the preserving of the bodies and also the floral tributes which are placed in the coffin.

The oddest part of the plan, however, is in the Doctor's scheme for seeing the faces of the dead after the interment. It is his intention to place over the plate glass above the head an inverted metal bowl, twelve inches at the base and narrowing at the top of the dome to two inches. This connects with a metal pipe, which runs to the surface of the earth, and is there covered with a cap to prevent the intrusion of foreign substances which will clog the channel of vision. It is obvious that with the casket under six feet of solid ground that the question of light would assume the dignity of a problem. This the Doctor has solved by means of another pipe similar to the first. There will be placed in the casket four incandescent lights, the wires of which will run through the second pipe to the ground. A small storage battery will furnish sufficient power to run the lights for an hour at a time, and it is improbable that any one will care to look on a dead face for a longer time without an interval of rest. The Doctor's present plans provide for the end of the pipe being even with the surface of the earth.

As a companion to these improvements in the art of embalming, Dr. Holmes has also perfected an antiseptic gas to be used instead of fluids, which, he claims, will keep the body longer and in a much better state of preservation. It is introduced by means of tubes, and, being an expansive substance, forces its way through the veins, driving out the blood and permeating the tissues. He has at his house, corner of South Ninth street and Marey avenue, Brooklyn, an arm which has been embalmed for nearly five years, and is yet as white as when the subject was in life. The glass casket has a movable false front, and on which a body is placed. It is then closed so as to be air-tight, and not only the body but the casket itself is filled with gas.

Dr. Holmes expects to demonstrate the practicability and advantages of his new process to the undertakers of the country in the near future.



THE DEAD MADE VISIBLE.

A PYTHON HANGS HIMSELF

The Outcome of an Overwhelming Fondness for Monkey.

Over in the animal store of H. Hain, No. 246 Grand street, Williamsburg, a huge python recently hung himself. During the night the monster reptile broke out of his box and swallowed a frisky monkey that was chained in a cage set close to the ceiling.

The python, in common with the other great constricting snakes, has the peculiarity that he can swallow an object of great size, but cannot relinquish anything. If he swallows a tin can he is obliged to keep it. The jaws are jointed by very elastic cartilage, which permits them to open to a great width, but the sharp teeth all point backward toward the throat, and nothing can pass out between them.

The Python had caught the chained monkey, killed and quickly swallowed him. Then he tried to move away, and found himself held by a stout chain. He struggled violently, and thereby caused himself to choke and suffocate. The iron and bruised condition of his body showed that he had dashed himself furiously against surrounding objects.



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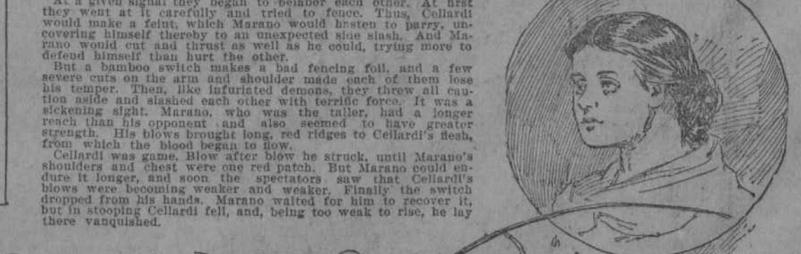
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