

The Spectrum

Published by the Students of the North Dakota Agricultural College.

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Evolution.

To the thoughtful mind, nothing could be more striking than the well-nigh universal and stupidly persistent misconception entertained concerning the general law of evolution.

In spite of the numerous simple and clear cut treatises touching its various phases, not one person in one hundred has availed himself of the information they contain, and although this information can be so liberally procured, and furnishes so abundant and overwhelming evidence, not one person in fifty can make even a fair statement of the law; the law which controls the structure and habits of all living things, the law which is as inevitable and eternal as the law of gravity itself, and is besides far more obvious and demonstrable.

Long years after the work of Newton was made known to the public, the law of gravity was still referred to as the theory of gravitation, and even to the present day we hear of the Copernican theory, as though educated people, since the year fifteen hundred, have not had the means of finding out that the sun is the center of the solar system. The same misapplication of terms is also made respecting evolution.

If asked to give a statement of evolution, the average person questioned, undaunted by his ignorance, glibly responds,

"Evolution is the theory that man came from the monkey." The very boldness of the proposition thus stated makes it repellant, and hence it is quite naturally dismissed as untrue.

But as this is not evolution, or even one of its possible results, it is now proposed to give a simple statement of this great problem of study. We call attention to some of its most striking manifestations. The question as to the origin of man is one of many hundred with which the biologist has to deal, and it is yet in the realm of mystery, but every intelligent person has it within his means to acquaint himself with the facts of embryology, morphology, atavism, geology, and anthropology, which show that the human species has ascended from a lower type than that now presented by the civilized man. Our present knowledge is not sufficient actually to demonstrate that man developed from lower forms, but there is no condition that would render such development impossible.

Shall we reject such knowledge and appeal to our absolute ignorance for an explanation simply because our practical knowledge fails to explain even important points? The theory of evolution competes with the theory of special creation. One of these causes must account for the existence or presence of our different

species including, of course, the human species itself. It is impossible to conceive that man could have originated in two entirely different ways that have no possible connection or relationship.

Those, then, that reject either of these two doctrines because it is not adequately supported by facts, must remember that they by that act assume the additional burden of proving the converse to be more probable at least, or in closer accord with the known laws of nature.

The majority of men in the civilized world are born in a given belief, and demand the most rigorous proof of any adverse doctrine, but assume that their own, whatever it may be, needs none.

This little globe of ours has produced over ten million species of animal and vegetable organisms, some of which have existed in times past, while others are in existence today. Here we may ask a question, a question that has occupied the minds of our most noble and educated men. Is it probable that there have been ten millions of special creations, each of which certainly requires a conscious design? Or is it probable that by continuous modification ten million species have gradually evolved? There are, doubtless, many who will say that they can more easily conceive of this vast number of special creations than they can of ten millions of species having arisen by gradual modification. But deep philosophers on this subject say that all

such people suffer an illusion. It has been shown to many of these people that they have never yet realized a single creation. They cannot tell us how, when, or even where this process takes place. Does a fish suddenly appear in a bowl of water, or an unknown animal spring from the clouds? If not, then we must believe in the old Hebrew idea that Yveh, the maker of all living things, molded them out of clay.

If the theory of evolution be rejected because it has no direct proofs, then we must reject the theory of special creation for the same reason. While the very nature of conditions renders it impossible that we should see a species evolved; on the other hand, no one has ever seen a species created. Thus to deal with these two propositions in a just spirit, and at the same time from a scientific standpoint, is to place them on an equal plane and make a comparison of the observed facts and indirect proofs.

Although some of our most highly valued geological records have been destroyed, although only an infinitesimal part of the remnant has been carefully studied and examined, and although palæontology furnishes but a very broken evidence, the more we examine the earth's strata, the more they testify that organic forms have been produced by modification upon modification, generation after generation. Recent discoveries show that the reptile type has, by gradual changes of environments and other numer-

ous influences, given rise to our modern bird. Huxley has shown that our domestic horse of today has developed from the four toed *Orohippus* of Eocene times. Is this not great evidence, as well as strong support for the theory of evolution? It certainly shows the possibility of such a phenomenon. What has been done may be done again. Moreover, not only do fossils furnish in this way the lines of lineal ascent to existing forms, but they simultaneously disclose a fact of great significance, the fact that earlier types of animals and plants of any class display the most general and simple traits of structure, and that the same classes today have specialized in all directions and show a development in the complexity of their organs.

Classification of plants and animals is identified with evolution. But the average man of today, and even the naturalist of olden times, passed by the remarkable relationship that exists between our different orders and families in both the animal and plant kingdom. The possibility of the classification of all plants, cultivated as well as wild, and all animals, domestic as well as foreign, harmonizes perfectly with the supposition of a common origin. There is also a great similarity between the fossils of the past and the remains of today, and it was this wonderful relationship that exists between the dead and the living that gave Darwin his belief in descent and modification. It is considered, moreover, by mul-

titudes of educated men and women, and also by our ablest philosophers, that this reason is sufficient for even the uneducated man. It has been shown very clearly by Owen that there is a remarkable relationship between the fossil fauna and the living fauna of the present time in Australia. There are facts in embryology which tell, with endless repetition the same story. It is found that all organisms, regardless of circumstances, have a great number of characteristics in common. And even more, at a certain stage in embryonic life all living things are identical in form and structure, but their destination, which has been so carefully plotted for them by nature, is vastly different. In other words, the embryo of a rabbit is at one time identical with the embryo of a fish or of a horse, indicating the common origin of the fish, the horse and the man; and it is only after exhibiting successive kinship of organization to lower animals that it at last assumes the form proper to man. This certainly demonstrates gradual evolution, for if the development had been arranged otherwise it would surely have gone along lines of direct growth from the germ to the completed form.

Thus we see a grand connection between our different plants and between our different animals as shown by embryology, classification, distribution and palæontology, which, after all, only show that the different species are brought about by adapting

themselves to their respective all converge to the same conclusion.
habitats.

The results of selection tend to verify these truths; for, since artificial selection implies variations, it also implies that the selected plants and animals have been modified by external influences, and that these modifications have been inherited, accumulated, and transmitted.

This wonderful fact has been demonstrated in the human race. We see the Fuegians on their wretched island go about naked while the falling snow melts on their backs; we see the Yakutes sleep in the open air and wake covered with hoar frost; we see tribes inured to the tropics sleeping in the burning sunshine. Moreover, while we thus obtain proof that organisms adapt themselves to their environments we also see that we have numerous races and varieties. Men have spread from their original locality into other localities in all directions about them, and it has resulted in unlike families and races and nations appropriate to their respective habitats. Embryology, classification, and palæontology, therefore, all suggest the same history;

The great length of time required for the production of a species under the evolutionary process is regarded as a reason for disbelief; but if we consider that life has existed for one hundred millions of years, it will be conceivable that with minute variations, generation after generation from the form of its predecessor, man was finally the outcome, and if we reflect that these successive changes are minute, that in the course of our historical period this progressive variation has not advanced a single step perceptible to the human eye, both in respect to plants and animals, it is not extravagant to claim the hundred millions of years for the accomplishment of this stupendous process.

Surely if a single cell may, when subjected to certain influences, become a man in the space of twenty years, there is nothing absurd in the hypothesis that under certain other influences, a single cell may, in the course of a hundred millions of years, give origin to the human race.

F. G. BENN.

The Fruits of North Dakota.

(Prepared for Arbor Day.)

The ability of a writer to make a subject interesting, in general, governed by the narrowness of that subject. Therefore, dear friends, expect to be led away by the fascinating details of my sketch; for lo! the breadth of it is limited by the ability of man to comprehend. We shall treat of this subject under the heads of kind, quality and distribution. To facilitate the discussion, the

state may be divided into three natural botanical regions: 1st, the northern part of the state, east of the Turtle Mountains, which we shall call the tropical portion; 2d, the western one-third which we shall call the fertile portion; and 3rd, the remainder, which is mainly desert.

Through all these different regions we find one fruit growing abundantly. It flourishes as well in the desert of the south as in the tropics of the north. It needs no cheering sunshine for the full development of its seeds, as it has been known to ripen even in the coldest weather. Likewise, rain and lack of rain have an equally negative influence upon it; for the deeds of men is the substance upon which it grows. It is generally considered as plural and is known as fruits meet for repentance. Often the quality of them is, in itself, incomparable, but to the owners thereof the fruits may have a bitterness compared with which gall itself were sweeter than any honey that ever rolled down the slopes Hymettus.

A mystical fruit, unknown to most of the inhabitants and found only in out of the way places, is called the Apple of Sodom. Strange to say, they do not grow on apple-trees, but upon trees like that of the cedar wood. The appearance outside is fair enough, but when pressed in the hand, lo, the fruit bursts and nothing but dust appears. Its use is to teach a moral lesson.

Another species of apple, common within the limits of the state and familiar to nearly

everyone, is known as the "Apple of my eye." This varies so much in character and kind that it would be mere trifling with truth to attempt to describe it. At one time it is a laughing child; at another time it is a manly son, and again a gentle maiden. In extreme cases it may assume the form of an evil spirit, yet even here it is the same fruit, at least to the person interested.

Another fruit, which every person knows to a greater or less extent, is an apple and is said to belong to Adam. Though it be swallowed many times within the day, it reappears, ever failing to satisfy the hunger of the owner.

While it is said that apples are not so abundant nor so various here as in some climes, yet not a few of the boys assert that that they can get sid'er on short notice if some other fellow isn't sid'er first, and even then there are two sides, and no one can peach where both fare equally well.

We will now pass to the consideration of the plums of this state. The first one, of fascinating interest to many, is known as a political plum. The vicinity of the origin of this fruit is said to be the region near Bismarck, but it is easily introduced wherever there is a money order postoffice. This fruit seems quite unsubstantial at times, and those who look on as outsiders say that it is nothing but a beautiful rainbow which keeps its equal distance from the seeker until he is poor in spirit and in pocket. Another one, which is local but common where found, is

the plum-bob. It is found on the Campus in the spring in two or three places. It is rarely eaten on account of its hardness and indigestibility.

Osage oranges are said to be raised in the southern portion of the desert, principally because of their sweet and peculiar odor. They are globular in form with a size ranging up to four inches in diameter. When a ripe one is cut open before a number of persons they seem to be thinking hard of some unperformed duty or other and hasten away to do it with their handkerchiefs to their noses. In two or three minutes nothing is visible but a yellow dog or so not yet out of range.

Though not native to the state, there is a fruit here so thoroughly introduced that we may treat of it. It is common in the different regions, yet nevertheless it is measured by numbers, not bushels. It grows as luxuriantly, though not so common, in the waste places as in the fertile ones. The conditions seem to be particularly favorable for its growth upon the College Campus. Its Latin name is *Pyrus communis*, which, translated, means: Those that go in communities of two. The plain English name is pairs. They seem to be more apparent about the close of day when the shadows begin to fall, and again they are more abundant at certain parts of the week than others. After a series of careful experiments extending over a period of several years, it has been found that their appearance culmi-

nates at the end of every seven days and then drops to the minimum for a time.

One deep-seated and fundamental relation existing between the foregoing fruit and another one has evidently been overlooked by such botanists as Sachs and Strasburger, for a most careful perusal of their writings fails to reveal mention of it. Indeed, this fact is of such vast importance that it weakens the whole law of evolution as now laid down. The truth of the relation may not be doubted, for we are in a position to know. In short it is this: These pairs make dates. We have been told that these dates are much the same as those found in the markets and which come from Italy, but far sweeter and more delightful in every way. Sometimes these pairs get their dates mixed. Now this is a case of improper hybridizing; and under careful treatment, and by the aid of a diary, such things would never happen.

In small fruits also, we are not lacking, for the woods are full of strawberry blondes, and huckleberries are not at all rare.

Before closing, why not take steps to promote the more extensive cultivation of some of the fruits that have been mentioned, and make this state a great fruit center? There is material here, some of it uncultivated as yet, to be sure, which, if developed, would send the fame of our fair state half way round the globe. Let us unite and work for this cause.

L. R. W.

College Athletics.

The reputation and usefulness of a college depend largely upon the position it holds in regard to college sports. The college or university that takes no interest in developing the body as well as the mind of its students is only half teaching, for it is necessary to have a sound body in order to have a sound mind.

If we look to the history of ancient Greece and Rome, we find this idea prevalent. The Greeks, at least, saw that, in order to become properly developed, they needed good physical training. They, however, had a very wrong idea as to the best way of accomplishing their end. By severe forms of training the ancients prepared themselves for statesmen and soldiers. They made long runs in deep sand, slept out-of-doors in the most severe weather, went several days without food, and made various other severe tests all of which tended to weaken instead of to strengthen the body.

But people have grown to know more about their body. They have learned that it is not necessary to undergo great privations in order to build up a healthy system, but that a milder form of training will bring about this condition much surer than will over exertion. The true aim in training should be properly to develop all parts of the body and thus to insure good health.

The mind that is engaged in study needs rest and recreation that it may make the best use of the material stowed away for

its growth. Trying to store away knowledge in a brain weakened by lack of exercise is as useless a task as trying to fill a bottomless barrel with water; you may pour in but cannot accumulate.

There are other reasons, also, for trying to arouse a greater interest in athletic games here at our college. It helps much to make a name for our school for which each of us is presumably anxious. But there is a lack of the spirit which is so essential to the best results. This "easy going" state will never assure success. Successful competition with other schools, where a well-regulated system of training is carried on throughout the college year, is impossible, unless we imbibe the spirit manifested by them and properly prepare for the contests.

But we say, "We haven't time; we are over-burdened with lessons; the faculty takes no interest in such matters, and it is impossible to train under such conditions." There may seem to be a lack of interest on the part of the faculty, but is it not because we do not enter into the work with a will? If we shall show greater interest in preparing for these contests, the faculty will do, now as they have in the past, all within their power to help us.

We have an Athletic Association, the members of which are well developed both physically and mentally. Some of them have already gained more

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Circulars for the summer school have been sent to press and will be ready for distribution in a few days. The college is in excellent condition for such a school. The buildings are surrounded by beautiful grounds, and our class rooms and laboratories are complete and convenient. Some of our competitors are endeavoring to make capital out of the fact that this is a "farmers' school," and not a place to train teachers. In this argument they show their weakness and ignorance. We have a course of instruction and a body of instructors equal to any institution in the state. Our professors were educated in the best colleges, normal schools, and universities of the East and they have had experience in the various grades of school work before entering their present field as specialists. We aim to *educate* young men

and young women, and are willing that men who are familiar with our work shall judge as to our success, but we are not willing that a narrow-minded, bigoted individual, who is not familiar with the quality of work done here shall pass judgment. Thus far our students have done good work and the prospects for the college are very encouraging.

Among the many advantages offered to the college student of the present in addition to those offered a century ago, is that of a course in good instructive reading. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the advantages accruing from the habit of reading. Books should be read that will improve the mind in some way; and they should be read attentively and understandingly. After making a liberal allowance of time for regular study, sleep and recreation, two hours a day, at least, remain, which cannot be better employed than in reading useful books. Such works include products of the imagination—both in poetry and prose—together with essays, histories, and books of travel. The person who has developed a hunger for such literature is on the right path to learning and culture; for the devoted reader acquires, in the course of a few years, a vast amount of information, which in itself will prove of great service to him.

Our next issue will not appear until after June 23, so that it may contain an account of commencement week.

Local Happenings.

Co. A. Inspection of arms! Judge Sauter visited the college May 4. to accept a challenge from the students for a championship series.

June 4th is the date for the inter-state oratorical contest. Mr. C. G. Warner, who has been quite ill, is again at college. Mr. Hoverstad, of the sub-experiment station at Crookston, visited the North Dakota station May 7.

Rev. Schermerhorn and Rev. Valiat visited chapel a few days ago. Prof. Waldron has painted his buggy with the college colors. This is quite an improvement for the buggy.

Prof. Jeffery and Miss Maude McEwan are owners of new bicycles. Pres. Worst visited his ranch this week and reports the sheep in good condition. Chas. Eggen will spend the summer helping Clayton make hay.

The Juniors and Seniors will soon be ready to orate on schedule time. Work will be begun very soon on the drill hall. This hall will serve as a gymnasium when not in use by the military company.

A meeting of the college board was held in the president's office May 12. The class in landscape gardening finished that subject last week and will devote the remainder of the term to economic entomology.

C. R. Foley was obliged to leave for his home in Medora, N. D., a few days ago. We are going to be considerably crippled for field day this year. Clayton Worst was obliged to drop out, and Mr. Tucker was called home.

Local Field Day will be held Saturday, May 15. Several gold medals are offered. The grader was used on the ball ground May 1, and put the diamond in good condition. It was also used to level the tennis court by the dormitory.

Editor Bushnell, of the Dakota Farmer, Aberdeen, S. D., visited the college May 7. Our ball team played its first game with the Moorhead Normal team April 24, and lost by a score of 24 to 23. The umpire helped the Normalites.

The game of ball with Fargo College resulted in a score of 13 to 10. We had the 10. Prof. Kaufman has had his "yacht" taken into dry dock. It will be repaired and painted and taken to Detroit.

W. E. Perry, with '99, visited the college May 4. Mr. Perry is now a mail clerk on the G. N. The faculty have fitted up a nice tennis court on the lot adjoining Prof. Bolley's, and, doubtless, will soon be ready E. Dor Tucker left for his home at Sanborn May 11. He has been engaged in theoretic-

cal farming for six months and will now apply his theories to practical work.

A system of electric bells has been put in to take the place of the "triangle." The new arrangement serves the mechanical building as well as the main building.

A complete set of standard weights and measures has been presented the college. Pres. Worst will go to Bismarck in a few days to superintend their packing and shipment.

Mrs. McVeety has begun a "subject catalog" for the bound volumes of magazines in the library. This catalog, when complete, will be very valuable and a great time saver.

Mr. Bert Jewett, from California, visited with his people last week, and spent several hours at the college. He leaves for the mining section in Montana, where he will be engaged in electrical engineering.

A pleasant social entertainment was held in the college chapel Friday evening, April 30. Besides the social feature, a creditable program was rendered, consisting of recitations and tableaux, and closing with a "picnic scene" by the juniors.

The base ball team challenged the faculty to play a game of ball on May 1. The challenge was promptly accepted and a very exciting game was the result. The students won by a score of 31 to 15. The faculty are just a little out of practice.

The old chapel trio has

given place to a double quartette consisting of Misses Taylor, Bronson, Gibson, and Peck, and Messrs. Hall, McGuigan, McArdle, and Meinecke. This change seems to meet with the approval of the students, if their applause may be taken as an index.

The operatic performance that was to have been given last winter will be given Friday evening, May 28. The name of the play is "Pocahontas," and it will certainly be interesting because it is full of local "hits." Every one should turn out to help make up the deficiency of the Athletic Association.

The dormitory committee recently received a new consignment of demerits and have been busily engaged in distributing the the same. Evidently music hath no charms to soothe, for the so-called male quartette have been given eight demerits for practicing during study hours.

The First Annual Contest of the Western League of Oratory will be held at Fargo, N. D., on Friday evening, June 4, 1897. Four contestants, the winners of first and second places in the North Dakota and South Dakota state contests of this year, will participate, which fact gives assurance of the most meritorious and most exciting program ever given in the history of Dakota colleges. The honor of winning the first contest, and the cash prize of \$50, are the prospects that combine to attach unusual interest to this event. No one can afford to

miss it. Let our colleges turn out in full force to see the great struggle of brain and tongue, and to shout for their various favorites. Talk about the contest, write about it, stir up a lively interest, and then be present on June 4, to help make the occasion a complete success. Remember the occasion, time, and place: First Western League Contest, Fargo, N. D., June 4, 1897.—ETHAN T. COLTON, Secretary, Mitchell, S. D.

On Friday, May 7, Arbor Day was observed with appro-

priate exercises in the afternoon as follows: Music was furnished by the double quartette. A brief history of Arbor Day was given by Prof. Bottenfield, and L. R. Waldron read a paper on "Fruits of North Dakota." Prof. Bolley gave a talk on "Plant Life," and Pres. Worst gave reminiscences of frontier life in a forest. Misses Angie Gibson and Maude McEwan gave recitations. After the program another game of ball was played by faculty and students and won by the latter.

College Athletics.

(Concluded from page 7.)

or less renown in athletic games. But they need more and better training.

What is proper training? Is it spending a few hours Saturday afternoon playing "work-up," or making a few attempts at pole-vaulting and then sauntering away to our rooms and spending the rest of the day sleeping? Can we get a proper amount of training by spending only a few hours each week, or, worse still, by putting off all training till within a week of Field day? We must train as we study, and be just as regular with one as with the other.

To be sure, our school is young as compared with other schools against which we must compete, but if we do not now arouse interest along these lines, who will? Why is it that Harvard and Yale stand so far in advance of other institutions of their kind in athletic games? Is it because they are in the East, or are so much older than the other col-

leges in our country? Are their students so much stronger by nature than the boys of other colleges? Do their young men have nothing else to do but to spend their time in training? Their graduates seem to have acquired a pretty broad culture, and if it came from training we may as well train only, and save ourselves the trouble of diligent study. But this is not the case. The secret of their success lies in the fact that they diligently study and train with a will.

There is no reason why, we, with proper training and spirit, cannot become as proficient as they.

We also need an enthusiastic captain who has ideas of the proper ways of training. Then with our campus so near our college, it is easy for us to do good training.

Field Day is close at hand. Let us, therefore, renew our efforts, and enter our work with a deeper determination to win. FRANK J. NEWMAN.

Exchanges.

A new American scientific monthly entitled "Marine Engineering," has been established.

The *Volante*, of the University of South Dakota, is well worthy of recognition amongst college journals.

The Yale record for the two-mile bicycle race has been lowered from 5 minutes 12 seconds, to 5 minutes 1 second.

Mr. Samuel Wilks, M. D., F. R. S., has been re-elected President of the Royal College of Physicians, of London.

The Steward to the Grocer: "The club wants a dozen eggs, wants 'em bad, too." It got them.—*College Exponent*.

Music is not individual property, but a gift for all. To everyone a spring of the purest and most refined education.—*The Georgtonian, Ky.*

The *Daily Palo Alto*, of Stanford University, Cal., is a paper which daily attracts our attention. It is emblematic of a prosperous institution.

Wife—"Horrors! You have been drinking. I thought you told me you never touched a drop." Husband—"I don't. What good would a drop do?"—*Ex.*

Herbert Spencer, adhering to his uniform practice, declined the honorary degree of Doctor of Science, which was offered him by the University of Cambridge.

Doctor—"What your husband really wants, Madam, is complete rest. Now, if you

could only—" Lady—"But he won't listen to me, Doctor." Doctor—"Ah, that's a very good beginning."—*St. Pauls.*

The *Minnesota Magazine* occupies a prominent place among college journals. The April number contains many good articles, well written and gives us a view of the quality in which many of us are lacking—originality.

Amongst our exchanges we are glad to acknowledge "Aggie Life," Mass. Agricultural College, "The Cadet," of the Nashville Military Institute, Nashville, Tenn., and "Talks and Thoughts," Hampton, Va.

The April number of the *Phreno-Cosmian* gives an oration of W. Haven Bradford, on "Evolution of the Spirit of Investigation," to whom great credit is due. Any magazine may justly feel proud to publish such an article.

Princeton University will send its fourteenth geological expedition to the West during the coming summer. The party will be under the direction of Prof. Scott and will make palæontological and geological studies and collections in South Dakota.—*Science.*

"THEM BLOOMERS."

Said a biker to a farmer,
"Did a lady wheel this way?"
Said the farmer to the biker,
"I'll be hanged if I can say,
From the outfits they are
wearing,

From the mountain to the sea;
Whether the biker is a woman,
Or whether 'tis a he."—*Ex.*

Boarding House Geometry.

Stephen Leacock, in 'Truth.'

Definitions and Axioms.—All boarding-houses are the same boarding-house.

The landlady of a boarding-house is a parallelogram—that is, an oblong, angular figure, which can not be described, but is equal to anything.

A wrangle is the disinclination of two boarders to each other that meet together but are not on the same flat.

All the other rooms being taken, a single room is said to be a double room.

Postulates and Propositions—A pie may be produced any number of times.

The landlady can be reduced to her lowest terms by a series of propositions.

A bee-line may be made from any boarding-house to any other boarding-house.

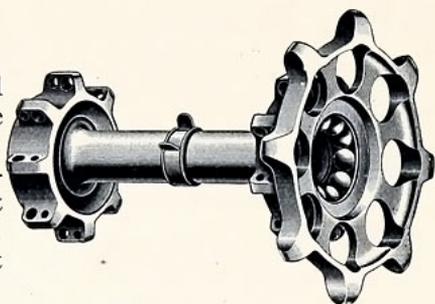
The clothes of a boarding-house bed, though produced ever so far both ways, will not meet.

On the same bill and on the same side of it there should not be two charges for the same thing.

If there be two boarders on the same flat, and the amount of side of the one be equal to the amount of side of the other, each to each, and the wrangle between one boarder and the landlady be equal to the wrangle between the landlady and the other, then shall the weekly bills of the two boarders be equal also, each to each.

For if not, let one bill be the greater.

Then the other bill is less than it might have been—which is absurd.



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