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Columbia, S. C.

THROUGH MANY DOORS

(By Jane Osborn.)

(Copyright, 1915, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

The first door was the front door, and Lee Bateman passed that threshold one day toward the middle of that memorable senior year at college.

Molly was different from the other girls in the college town. None of the boys knew her. It was said that Doctor Dare had refused to allow Molly to waste her time with the college boys, and wasn't this very fact added to the golden hair and the bewitching smile, enough to fire any college senior's spirit of adventure?

But that first door—the front door—of the rambling old mansion was the wrong way to find Molly. To be sure, Lee Bateman was received into the stately old mahogany drawing room and Mrs. Dare talked to him with unenthusiastic courtesy and had even made out the check that patronesses were expected to contribute to the senior dance. But Lee's expectations of seeing Molly were disappointed. His only glimpse of her was a fleeting vision through the window as she went out for an afternoon drive.

"Still there are other doors," he thought. "Molly doesn't come out of that door when she goes driving. She uses the side door." But the next day when Lee tried to approach that door in the disguise of a book agent he found that the door was guarded by Molly's pet bulldog, who treated Lee with the usual canine cordiality toward book agents.

Then there was the back door. All houses had back doors, Lee knew, and perhaps if he made his entrance that way he might find Molly making fudge in the kitchen. Luck had been against him so far and it was bound to turn. It was not hard to induce the grocer boy to let him deliver the rice and tea and coffee; and a little change in the way of a cap and a coat transformed him to the part. But Molly wasn't making fudge that afternoon. To be sure the cook was kind but Lee had no satisfaction in the encounter.

The fourth door seemed the most difficult. It was the doctor's office door. But somehow Lee went directly into the doctor's private office, and before he realized what had happened he found himself being questioned by the doctor as to the trouble which had brought him there.

"Sprained ankle," said Lee on the spot and the doctor immediately got to work with bandage and liniment. Ten minutes later, when Lee paid the doctor his fee, there was a twinkle in the old doctor's eye.

Lee jumped out through the passage into the hall of the house and there—the fates had relented at last—he saw Molly, the gold hair and the sweet smile and the merry gray eyes, and even the pet dog who accepted Molly's recognition of Lee as sufficient reason to abandon hostilities.

Molly Knew Mr. Bateman, and she was sorry that he had sprained his ankle and she opened the front door and watched him with concern as he limped down the front steps. It was only two minutes' encounter, but it was enough to fire the ardor of Lee's devotion.

Lee limped—when he thought of it—around the campus for the day and the next day he was one of the first afternoon patients waiting for the doctor's professional services. There were more bandages and more liniment, and then there was that wonderful passage through the house to the front door, where Molly again appeared. The next day the ankle was no better. The doctor agreed with Lee that it needed daily attention, and Lee's limp was so affecting that Molly drove him back to the campus in her pony cart.

The ankle had to recover. Bandages and liniment would, of course, have their results. But there were other complaints that a senior might invent. There were sprained wrists and strained eyes and strange unaccountable pains, and always the kindly doctor discovered symptoms that Lee had not even dreamed of, and always he accepted Lee's spot payment with the same apparent satisfaction in money well earned. And always there was the passage through the house, and always there was Molly who seemed to hover near the passageway at office hours. Still Molly did not ask him to come by the side door or the front door, and Lee did not dare to ask her for the privilege. Sometimes Lee stayed a half hour and sometimes he felt that in Molly's smile he caught a faint reflection of the devotion that had inspired his daily visits.

Then one day—it was nearing final examination time and Molly had been especially eager to know Lee's plans for the future—Lee had the long-anticipated opportunity to tell Molly of his love and to feel in her glance the response he had become so eager to receive.

"And now," said Molly, with a laugh that was contagious, "daddy can square his conscience about those fees. He knew that you were bluffing and he didn't want to let you keep on paying him. But I wouldn't let him stop. I was afraid that you wouldn't come any more. But father likes you for your foolishness. And he never would have had a chance to know you so well if it hadn't been for those daily visits. But he has just been saving the fees to return with interest."

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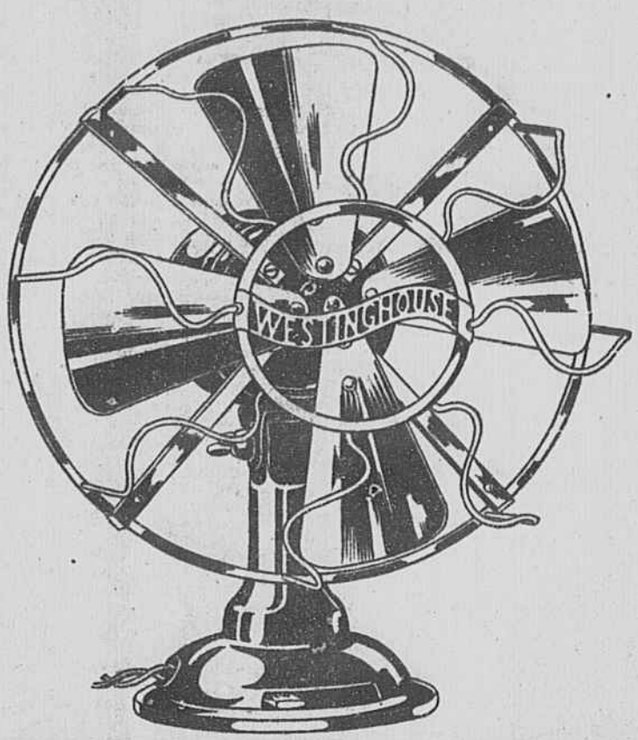

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General Who Made von Hindenburg Possible.

General Ludendorff.

General Ludendorff is the man who made General von Hindenburg the hero of Germany. For a long time an effort has been made to learn who was the brilliant man in the staff of von Hindenburg responsible for the repeated victories of the Germans on the East Prussian border. Those familiar with military affairs have been slow to give von Hindenburg credit for the victories. He was known as a plodding soldier. He had been retired when the war broke out, but had hung about the war office in Berlin to impress on it the importance of the Masurian Lakes in connection with an invasion by Russia. When the first defenders of Germany on the east front failed he was sent there in charge of many generals considered far abler. The results have been all that Germany expected. But now it has been learned that the mind behind the rough and ready von Hindenburg who has seldom showed great thinking capacity, was General Ludendorff.

The victories in East Prussia were so overwhelming, particularly in the battle of Tannenberg that the Germans made a hero of the man in charge of their forces.

Red Rot In Seed Cane

Washington, D. C., May 17.—When the sugar cane growers examined their banks of seed cane early last March in Grady County, Georgia, they found about one-half of the cane dead. Similar losses occurred during the winter of 1913-14. This presents a serious problem, for in the Southern part of the United States it is a common practice to store in soil beds during the winter, i. e., to "bank" the sugar cane to be used for planting the following season. A specialist of the United States Department of Agriculture found that the badly damaged canes were invariably affected primarily with a fungus disease, red rot, scientifically known as Colletotrichum falcatum. Examination of the cane showed that the rot usually began about the nodes and that frequently the eyes were apparently dead, the stalks still retaining their normal color inside. Often there were brown, water-soaked spots at the nodes at or near the points from which the roots of the new plant emerge. Occasionally it appeared as though the rot had proceeded from the leaf sheaths into the node.

In uncovering the bank of sugar cane stored for seed, it is not uncommon to find some of the tender ends of the stalks much rotted. In this season, however, in the majority of cases these ends show an excessive brown wet rot beginning at the tip or internodes of the stalks. The spots varied in size and in some instances extended the full length of the internode. Where the fungus penetrated the tissues to any extent, a red discoloration was present, many canes showing this their full length.

A careful inspection of banks of seed cane was made by the department's specialist in Grady County, Georgia, and in the vicinity of Apalachicola, Florida, to ascertain the influences exerted by the different conditions under which the cane might be bedded. It was generally agreed among the planters that cane for banking should be cut in a rain or immediately after a rain, so that the cane would go into the bank wet. The small bank was thought to be less conducive to the formation of red rot or other fungus diseases than the large banks.

The usual procedure in Georgia and Florida in banking seed cane is to lay the stalks, including roots, leaves and all, side by side lengthwise with the roots to the ground and the tops overlapping the stalks. The bank is usually about 6 feet wide and varies in length from 10 to 100 feet or more. A thin layer of soil, one to three inches deep, is then thrown over the cane. According to many planters, the thinner this layer of soil is, the better are the results obtained. Many different conditions, however, prevail in districts visited by the department's specialist. Some banks were covered with 4 to 6 inches of soil, some were bedded dry, others wet, some on high, others on low, and it was not infrequently found that the cane had been frosted.

Both plant cane and stubble were found stored in banks. However, in none of these varying conditions could any constant reason be found for the decay other than that of the presence of the red rot fungus. At the experiment farm at Cairo, Georgia, it is planned to investigate the red rot fungus of sugar cane, aiming to prevent the luxuriant development of the fungus which appears in the early warm spring days, or to eliminate the fungus from the banks entirely. It is hoped to find some means of preventing the decay of the cane as it seems to recur to a serious extent every few years, and is a serious menace to the sugar-cane industry.

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