

**"BEN" FRANKLIN NOT FIRST**

Contention Made That New Hampshire Had the Earliest Periodical in the United States.

I claim that the oldest periodical in the United States is the New Hampshire Gazette, published weekly at Portsmouth and founded in 1756, the next in age being the Weekly Mercury, published at Newport, R. I., and founded in 1758. Benjamin Franklin did not found the Saturday Evening Post or any other paper in 1728. The Pennsylvania Gazette was founded in 1728 by Samuel Keimer, who did not make a financial success of it and sold it to Franklin. It was first called The Universal Instructor in All Arts and Sciences and Pennsylvania Gazette. In his autobiography Franklin says of Keimer and the Gazette: "He began his paper, however, and after carrying it on three-quarters of a year, with at most ninety subscribers, he offered it to me for a trifle; and I, having been ready for some time to go on with it, took it in hand directly; and it proved in a few years extremely profitable to me."

Samuel Atkinson and Charles Alexander combined the subscription lists of the Pennsylvania Gazette and the Bee and issued the first number of the Saturday Evening Post on August 4, 1821, and the Gazette and the Bee went out of existence forever. Thomas Cottrell Clarke was the first editor of the Post. All old newspaper directories give 1821 as the year the Post was established.

**BOSSY HAD DELIRIOUS "JAG"**

Results of Imbibing Barrel of Home Brew Disastrous to Morals of Sedate Old Cow.

Milk, that mild and healthful beverage beloved of the young, usually held in light esteem by the anti-prohibitionist, but—

It happened not long ago—since Jan. 16—in the mining camp of Sand Coulee, Montana. A "Bohunk" miner's wife, apparently seeking to keep her lord and master in good humor, mixed a barrel of home brew guaranteed to develop a real kick, and set it out in the yard to ferment. A neighbor's cow happened along and tasted.

One taste led to another, and finally the barrel was empty. But not so the cow. She was most decidedly and satisfactorily "full." Anyway, bossy was fighting drunk, and she started out to clean up that mining camp, and succeeded almost completely. But she met her Wellington in Deputy Sheriff Adolphson. The cow charged the sheriff, who dodged.

Then bossy suffered from the hallucination that has afflicted humans under similar circumstances. She gave evidence of seeing a multitude of Sheriff Adolphsons, and finally firing herself with aimless charges fell down and asleep. When she awoke next day her "jag" was over. But it is reported that her milk sold at a premium for several days among the strong men of the camp.—Wall Street Journal.

**Ammonia by New Process.**

An enterprising American has secured from the Italian government a concession for the utilization of 800 horsepower of the Marmore cascades near Terni, about seventy miles from Rome, and maintains that he can turn out nitrogenous plant food for the Italian farmer at a cost as low as 1 lira per kilo (equivalent to \$0.988 per pound, with the lira taken at its par exchange value of \$0.193). It is said that the falls are capable of generating not less than 150,000 horsepower.

These are the cascades over which Byron waxed so eloquent in "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage." Alfred P. Dennis, commercial attaché of the United States embassy in Rome, reports to the department of commerce that the only ingredients in the ammonia are water, air and electric energy.

**Reality of Disease Germs.**

Replying to a protest from Lee White, publicity department of the Christian Scientists, against remarks on the death from diphtheria of a girl under Christian Science treatment, the Journal of the American Medical Association says: "Had the nine-year-old girl been buried beneath a load of bricks, even Mr. White would have suggested, we believe, that before giving the injured child 'Christian Science' treatment 'absent' or 'present'—the bricks should be removed. What Mr. White fails to realize is that a Klebs-Loeffler bacillus is just as material an object as a brick. It does material damage. It is true, not by its material weight, but by the equally material toxins it produces."

**Simple Telephony.**

An interesting development in telephony is a new three-wire wall net which operates on two ordinary dry cells says the Scientific American. The telephone itself is built for the use and pleasure of youngsters. The installation is very simple, as the telephones fasten to the walls with two screws and there is nothing more technical for the boy to do than to follow simple instructions in connecting the wire with the posts on each telephone box. The set will operate up to 1,000 feet, instead of the usual 100 or 200 feet, if two additional dry cells are employed.

**Giving Him Room.**

"Gracious! I didn't know you were going away."  
"Yes, the doctor has ordered my husband to stop smoking, and I'm going to mother's for the first few weeks."—Judge (New York).

**THE RATTLESNAKE'S BITE**

Snakebite Death One of the Most Horrible Known to Medical Profession.

Is the bite of a rattlesnake necessarily fatal?

The foregoing question was asked through a chain of newspapers served by an Atlanta correspondent. Among the replies which have been received is one from Dr. Jefferson Wilcox, of Willacoochee, Ga., a physician of 38 years experience. Dr. Wilcox says that the bite of the rattle is fatal, not only that, but death from snakebite is one of the most horrible known to the profession, second only to hydrophobia. The doctor has given cases from his personal observation and practice to prove beyond doubt the horrible deaths resulting from snake-bite. Following is his statement:

"I was called to see Jacob Vickers, who lives ten miles north of Willacoochee, Ga., September 13, 1910. He had been bitten by a rattle snake at three o'clock in the afternoon, and died at 3 the next morning. I had in consultation with me the late Dr. W. C. Ashley, of Oelha, Ga. In my 38 years as a practicing physician, I have seen many persons die, and under many circumstances, and from almost every known cause, but I have never witnessed a death as horrible as his. He became a human snake.

"Levie (Gurtrie, a young man working on the farm of John M. Lot, on the eastern side of Coffee county, was bitten September 8, 1886 and died in less than 48 hours.

"Henry Paulk, a prominent farmer who lived two miles east of Willacoochee, was bitten in May, 1876, and died

in less than 12 hours.

"My friend, John J. Jowers, of Bushnell, Coffee county, had a little girl ten years old, who in 1918, while picking blackberries was bitten on the hand and died in convulsions in less than two hours!

"August 28, 1883, one Sunday, I was called to the home of a man by name of Taylor, who lived in Appling county 12 miles from my home to a child seven years old, who had been bitten on the foot. The messenger came on horseback, (there being no automobiles in those days) and I returned on horseback with him. Five or six hours had passed before I reached the child. I was too late.

"In the year 1891, Rev. Jason Shirah of the South Georgia, M. E. Conference, was my minister. His wife was a Miss Leigh, of Folkston, Ga." She

had a brother 12 years old, who was bitten by a snake. After her return from her little brother's bedside she related the whole tragedy to me. Words cannot describe the suffering of the boy before his death.

"Mrs. J. B. O'Berry, of this place, who has been by friend and neighbor for a quarter of a century, had a sister, Miss Gertrude Martin, of Fort Valley, Ga., on a visit to her sister Near Altamaha, Ga. Miss Martin while picking blackberries on May 31, 1886, in company with her sister, and other ladies was bitten on the hand and died in six hours.

"When Miss Martin told her sister, Mrs. O'Berry that she had been bitten by a snake, Mrs. O'Berry seized the hand and wanted to suck the poison from the wound. Her sister struggled loose and said: 'You must not. You

are young yet, and perhaps you have long life ahead. You have your hand and children to live for. I have no ties like that to bind me to life. I could accomplish nothing, save perhaps your own undoing, and besides, I am already that I am doomed.'

"If anyone who thinks the bite of a rattlesnake such a harmless matter could only have been with me on a few occasions, and heard the shriek for water and say, 'Hell, no agony worse than mine!' and of the victims said in reply to question, 'That surely Dives, who was tormented in the flames of hell, felt no anguish like mine'—he would change his mind. To my knowledge the only other thing that is as horrible as the rattlesnake bite is hydrophobia."



**And no one could tell the difference!**

This test of direct comparison was made by Anna Case, world-famous soprano, before 2500 people, at Carnegie Hall, New York City, on March 10, 1920. See the three diagram sketches below:

- First—** Miss Case stood beside the New Edison and sang.
- Suddenly—** the lights went out, but Miss Case's voice went smoothly on.
- Then—** the lights went on again. Miss Case was gone. The audience gasped with surprise to find that her voice had been coming from the New Edison.

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It did this on March 10, 1920 before 2500 people at Carnegie Hall, New York City with Anna Case, the world-famed soprano. It did this on September 30th, 1919, before 2500 people at Carnegie Hall, Pittsburgh—with

Marie Rappold, prima donna of the Metropolitan Opera Company. It did this on November 5th, 1919, before 6500 teachers at the State Armory, Albany—with Mario Laurenti of the Metropolitan Opera Company. It did this over 4000 other times, with more than fifty great vocalists and instrumentalists.

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