

The Sphinx. Vol. 2, No. 6 December 15, 1900

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The Sphinx



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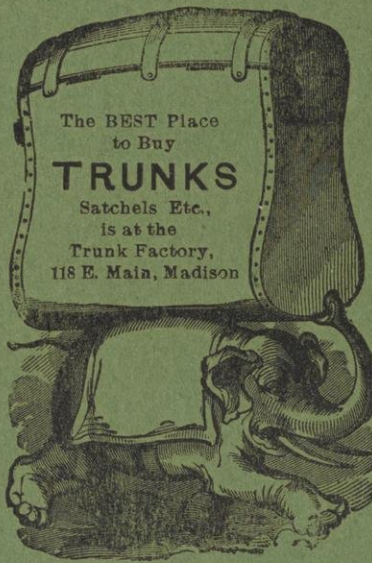
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After the Game.

"What did we do after we'd beat 'em? Nothin' much. There's lots of things we might 'ave done that we didn't.

"We might 'ave danced all over the field like a lot of crazy Indians and yelled like fiends. But we didn't.

"We might 'ave chased all over the muddy campus and tramped down the "keep off the grass" signs and then tracked the mud from 'round their shanty gym thro' all the halls and then gone and mixed what was left on our shoes with the mud of Prexy's lawn. But we didn't. No, siree.

"We just hunted up the Y. M. C. A. and sat reading the "Ram's Horn" and "The Christian Endeavor" until it was time to go, and Professor Staggs he comes down to the train to see us off and says as how he hoped we'd had a good time and would come again real soon. And we said we would."

—ROODLES.

A Touchback.

"Sist! John," said he,
"Oh, hand to me
Your answer quick
For number three."
"Go on! you Gee!
Can't you see
The old man is
Right back of me!

For two years she had pursued unswervingly the modern classics. On reaching juniorhood, she branched into literature and elocution. She began by making of Joaquin Miller, the mountain poet, a pedestrian. She filled out a slip at the library desk in all maiden simplicity: "Walking Miller, Como., and signed her name."

The next week she turned her innocent unquestioning eyes on Mr. Dudley and asked him for Hamlet's advice to the players, without a smile Mr. Dudley suggested to the maid that the play of Hamlet might fulfill her needs.

8:00 A. M.:

William bucked up for a quiz,
The quiz did not take place;
William left the class-room
With regret upon his face.

9:00 A. M.

William had not bucked at all,
And the class had a quiz;
William left *that* class-room
With deep woe upon his phiz.

William had his dates quite mixed,
A bad, bad thing to do;
William he knows better now;
But the Prof. must have *his* due.

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THE SPHINX.

Vol. II.

MADISON, WIS., DECEMBER 15, 1900.

No. 6



"Got over last night, old man?"
"Rats! I only smelled of the stuff."
"I should say you did!"

A Christmas Carol.

A Junior hung up his stocking,
And dreamed of the Christmas chimes.
There was something in it he knew not—
He was always behind the times.

It was still all there in the morning;
Old Santa had added no more.
It was simply a hole that was in it—
"O darn it," he cried, "what a bore."

Disagreeable Stunts.

In the middle of a lecture, when you're kind o' gettin' settled,
A-hearin' of the prof. lay down the law,
Now, honestly confess it, don't it make you kind o' nettled,
Just to see some woozy normalite raise his paw,
Just to see him raise his paw,
And to hear him wag his jaw
It would rile the meekest man you ever saw.

In the labroatory, also, when you're tryin' hard to hustle,
To finish up your drawin' for the day,
You'll be surely interrupted, and some bloom' normal cuss 'll
Undertake to to show you the better way.
And he makes you kind o' raw,
While you're tryin' hard to draw,
And you ache to swat him nicely in the jaw.

Christmas Dialogue Between Jones and Brown.

BROWN—Say, Jones, speaking of Christmas, why is a Wisconsin student enjoying the Christmas recess like a man with a little cold.

JONES—Don't know.

BROWN—Because they both have a weak cough.

JONES—That's poor. But tell me why is Christmas like the roll-call at Haskins' class the day before the recess.

BROWN—Give it up.

JONES—Because both have a lot of presents.

BROWN—Here is another. Why is Christmas to a father with seven grown-up daughters like the Wisconsin-Chicago game to Staggs?

JONES—That's easy. Because they are both glad it only comes once a year.

BROWN—Well guess this. Why is the letter "s" the worst letter in the alphabet to a man with an extravagant wife?

JONES—I can't guess that.

BROWN—Because the letter "s" is the end of Christmas, and Christmas is the end of him.

THE SPHINX.

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Always remember that this is only fun and pretence, so that you are not to believe a word of it, even if it is true—Kingsley.

Subscribers, remember the \$1.50 rate expires January 1st, 1901. Leave money at the Co-Op or College Book Store

THERE was a military hop the other night. It was a success; that is, nearly everybody was there, and the military department made some money. In one way it was a howling success—so much so that some of the participants haven't quit yet. And the cause of this was thus:

In older days there was, at the inception of a hop, a most uncomfortable crowding and pushing about the anterior portion of the hall, which crowding and pushing were caused by the fact that people filled out their programs after they arrived. That practice has, happily, become obsolete, and now each gallant swain escorts his maiden at once in an orderly and dignified manner to a seat beneath the Indian clubs, serenely conscious that both of them are supplied with partners for sixteen regulars and twenty-one extras. You see how much more decorous and elegantly reposeful the present system is.

* * *

BUT you can't suit everybody, and even this reform, incredible as it seems, has its critics. These ridiculous persons say that some of the people who go to a hop decide to do so only at the last moment. Well, next time they will decide sooner, or they will stay at home. The critics also say that some people would go if they thought they would be able to fill out programs at the hall; but what of it? There are always enough to fill the floor as it is.

They say that it's a bore to fill out programs in advance, and that it takes time which might be spent at something else; but lives there a man with soul so dead that he wouldn't willingly chase himself around for two or three days in order to prepare for a three-hour hop? You see how vitally weak these objections are; and all the others are equally unreasonable. For instance, it is urged that some members of both sexes are not widely acquainted, and are therefore at a disadvantage. Of course they are at a disadvantage; doesn't half the fun of life consist in having somebody else at a disadvantage? And when you are one of the unlucky, just look pleasant, and think of the joy others are getting out of you and of the good time coming when you can exult over the discomfort of the other fellow—or the other girl. Even if it's true, as it probably is, that the advance program habit is obnoxious to a great majority, that doesn't matter in the least. For those who start the business and force others into it don't care a whoop whether anyone else is incommoded or not. And therefore, as the poet so beautifully says:

"On with the dance—let slobs go unconfined."

* * *

So you need look for no reversion to the primitive custom. In these days, when the time for a hop approaches but is yet in the remote distance,

some Willie-boys, ambitious to get ahead one of the other, ask the maidens that they love, but love not well enough to ask to the hop, for a number of dances proportional to the depth of their affection—it may be one, or two, or half a dozen. And Mamie, who has been besieged by two men for dances, and has heard that another thinks of asking for one, calls up, with her little heart all a-flutter, the particular Willie who is devoted enough to take her, and demands that he now select his dances or forever after be a stag. And he selects them, and perhaps swears inwardly that henceforth stag life is the life for him, And Mamie confides to her dearest friend that she wishes there were thirty dances on the list, for she can't possibly return a favorable answer to all requests. And the dearest friend feels a sudden sinking of her little heart, for she hasn't been asked for a single number. But she resolves nobly to continue the bluff, and she calls up her man and tells him he can't have more than nine dances, and he'd better take them now or maybe he won't get but seven. And he takes them, and he does some more swearing. And the next day the hill is lively with little boys running frantically about, for they have heard that the girls' programs are filled; and here and there one of them runs about at more than record gait, for he is filling his girl's program too. And some of the maidens stalk about with triumphant smiles, for they have no empty numbers to worry them any more; but others navigate with a troubled and doubtful mien, for on their lists is still nothing much but space. And in the Gym and in the frat houses and wherever men do congregate, much profanity ascends unto the clouds. But so shall it ever be, for of a truth this is a great reform that we have now accomplished.

An Ode on the Alarm Clock.

WITH APOLOGIES TO KEATS.

Thou still unravished bride of quietness
Thou foster-child of silence and slow time,
'Varsity historian, thou can'st us express
A flowery tale more sweetly than our rhyme.

When we had been out late with brave carouse
To drown our sorrow in the shallow cup,
I told my comrades how you'd us arouse—
When morning came thou did'st not get us up.

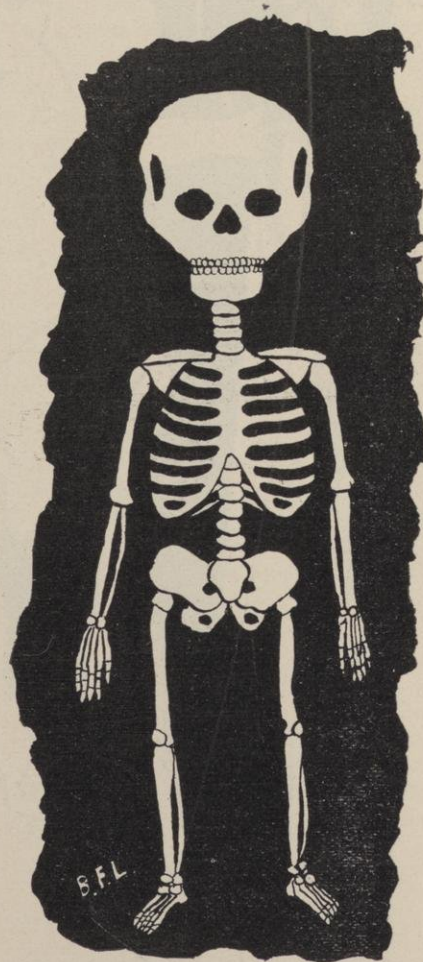
In thy steadfastness we did place our trust;
It mattered not how late at night we'd cram
For early quiz that we must pass, or bust—
No noise thou'd make, or seem to give a damn.

Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard
Are sweeter; therefore, thou dear clock, play on;
Not to the sensual ear, but, more endear'd,
Pipe to the spirit ditties of no time.

The Difference.

In olden days of classic lies,
When men and gods were very chummy,
Gods raised a hero to the skies,
Men raised to gods a marble dummy.

So now today, as then of old,
Gods set the prize and help to win it;
But men have raised a god of gold:
The gods above no more are in it.



AN EX-MAN.

IKEY—What's the difference between a skating club and a wooden leg?

MIKEY—Well, what is it?

IKEY—Why, one is a shinny stick, and the other is a sticky shin.



"Worthy."

"Thump!" Bang! Swish! The door flew open and in stalked Jack, in all the glory of about a dozen sweaters and a bath robe of a very noisy pattern.

It was a habit of Jack's, blowing in on a fellow this way, and I always knew how to behave on these occasions. I said nothing, but nodded toward my couch and pretended to resume the chapter in ethics I had been trying to get up for the next day. Jack's "evenin'" was all that answered my nod of welcome. He paced back and forth a little nervously and then tossing his cigarette "butt" in the direction of the "gaboo," he did a stage fall all over my couch that made the row of "steins," on their rack, jump in surprise. "Ted, old girl, got time to listen to a little 'calamity howl' for a minute or two?" came from beneath the pile of pillows after a pause. "Fire away," said I, and tossed ethics to the further corner of the bed as I squared around to listen to



the usual "confession." You could always tell it was one of two things bothering Jack, either he had been getting badly used on the team, or thought so, or else he had again lost his heart to some fair charmer and had it cruelly bruised and returned. I waited. Presently, "got it in the neck again, Ted," in a cheerful tone. I said nothing. "It's all up now, she threw me so hard, it made my head swim."

I looked cynical and prepared to do a little analyzing, when the voice from the pillows spoke again. "It was this way, Ted," and a huge mass of sweaters and pillows arose to a sitting posture. "She said I might come up, and I did. Got talking a lot of 'rot' about things generally, and I was having a whale of a time, just watching her. Such eyes! Ted. Such a smile! When she suddenly said she was tired and I must go. Well, go I did, but didn't like it a bit. It was only nine by the Libe clock and I was mad. I went home and nursed my dampened spirits, 'till about an hour later, the blooming freshman down stairs, poked his head into my room and began guying me about being done out. Of course, I didn't understand, but when he calmly told me he had seen 'her' at ten o'clock setting on the Hall veranda with Parker. I got a little warm under the collar. Felt like a plugged quarter, in fact. But I spoiled all the choice note paper I had trying to compose a mild enough calling down to send her. So you see I've gone and went and been 'it' again. What do you think of that?" Leaning back with a knowing smile, I winked at him and "Forget it," I said. She isn't worthy of all this fuss any way. Put in your time on ethics the way I do." He stared into vacancy with a thoughtful wrinkle deepening on his forehead, then "Ted" he said, "I wouldn't stand that from any one but you. She's worth two of me, but I don't know how to win her."

A thoughtful pause, then "guess I'll get to bed. Feel better any way, now I've told it. Au revoir," and he was gone with a slam of the door as suddenly as he came.

D. E. B.

For a' That and a' That.

Where beauties bathe upon the beach,
Where men are scarce and a' that,
There, women do each other teach,
A man's a man for a' that.
For a' that and a' that
What though he's ugly as a bat,
And is a woman hater.
He is a man for a' that.
Or if he's bashful as a maid,
And cold as ice and a' that
What if his youth long since did fade,
He is a man for a' that.
For a' that and a' that.
If he be dull and a' that,
As long as he is not a girl,
He's called a man for a' that.
No matter whether lean and tall,
Knee-knocked and a' that
Or whether he be round and small,
A man's a man for a' that.
For a' that and a' that
If he be poor and a' that
Or if a brainless prince,
He is a man for a' that.
If he be brave and broad and tall,
Bold and gay and a' that,
And if he be chucked full of gall,
He's liked the more for a' that,
For a' that and a' that
But if he does not have a' that.
No matter whether nearly dead,
He is a man for a' that.





When John Comes Home.

The boy is comin' home to-night,
So make the fire burn brisk an' bright,
We like to have things warm an' light
When John comes home.

Elias he 'as gone to town
To meet the boy; and I'll be boun'
There don't a better time come roun'
Than this, when John comes home.

Two years at college—pretty nigh,
Expenses run most awful high,
But he'll be through now, bye-and-bye,
—I s'pose then—he'll come home.

The feelin' strikes me pretty strong
When work is hard an' days are long,
'At 'taint no use. I know I'm wrong
When John comes home.

Hark! There's the bell! I swan I'm glad!
I don't begrudge 'im what he's had.
He's worth it, Yes, God bless the lad!
John's come home.

Thoy're at the turn now, just about.
Yes! That's Elias! I heard 'im shout.
Now set some good warm vittles out,
For John's come home!



Agnes.

Snow was in the air and on the ground. The atmosphere of Christmas pervaded the baggage filled station. Students were eagerly waiting the trains that should take them to the north—to the south—to the village home and to the crowded city. Every one looked happy.

Trains pulled in. Ernest Ford saw his 1.06 north-bound slow into the station and stop. He picked up his grip, then dropped it again while the passengers streamed out. Strange that anyone should want to come when so many hundreds were impatient to leave. Ford was a senior. He had come that fall from another college. He had been out a year in the meantime and worked on the hill as a man who knows somewhat of life and realizes opportunity.

This was his first visit to the station since he had come and he reviewed his time in Madison. There was a succession of climbs up the hill and lessons in history, philosophy and science.

They were pleasant enough. But there was another side—the side that means so much more—in judicious quantities—than some will admit it does. He knew a half dozen fellows rather well. He considered himself acquainted with three women besides his landlady and her weekly visitor to Sunday tea. One lived in the same house and was constantly on the *qui vive* because there were men under its roof. She might have been Ford's aunt from appearance, and he thanked Heaven she was not. Another was a girl who worked at his table in Lab., and allowed him to fix her slides and do innumerable things of the manual sort. She had just passed him talking merrily to another man at the station and had apparently forgotten she knew the man with the brown grip and somewhat forlorn expression.

The other little girl was one he knew somehow. He couldn't remember how he met her—perhaps she could not either. He met her every day after their eight o'clock and together they walked down the hill to Science Hall. Then she went up Langdon. Neither knew where the other lived, nor did they care. He blessed her for her friendliness. It made him think of home and Agnes. She always smiled when they met whether with her friends or alone. Her bow and smile said she was glad, and so was he.

The "all aboard" of the brakeman aroused him in time to swing himself upon the platform. He found one vacant seat. At a little station a passenger entered and took the place beside him. They looked at each other.

"Agnes!" he exclaimed.

"I thought I'd meet you, Ernest," she said, "I am on my way home from a little visit at Litchfield."

At the sound of his voice, the social starvation of the past three months lifted as a dream. With this girl came the thought of the little world that knew him best—her world and his.

"Agnes," he said, "my Christmas has now begun."

Long, long ago in the desert,
From far on the hills and sand
THE SPHINX caught the earliest teaching
Of Christmas and peace in the land.

And now after ages of waiting
And watching whole centuries through,
She speaks with the heartiest greeting
Of good will and Christmas to you.

"This carrying a current of 14,000 amperes is no light job, I can tell you," said the Wire to the Bridge Pier on which it was fastened.

"No, and this business of holding up trains ain't what it's cracked up to be," replied the Pier.

Some questions the new directory does not answer: Where does the Badger board, the gym drill, the mail box, the postage stamp, the ladies hall, and the dog pound?

Only one year to-day;
How she blushed when I met her!
Rosy red I will say,
Ah! that color was gay—
But she's fading away;
Yet I cannot forget her,
Only one year to-day,—
She's my darling old sweater.

SHE—I wouldn't be surprised to see Miss Aide a Phi Beta Kappa some day.

L. W.—P. S.—Why, are they rushing her?

THE SPHINX printed in the last issue an exchange which was taken from the *Chaparral*, and received the following communication:

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Was glad to read your announcement that "The management is going to fix the new athletic field fence so that the boards that have knot holes will be replaced by boards that have not holes."

It is not a question of knot holes. There was not a whole board in it, that did not have a hole bored in it. The whole board of the College are in it to replace a hole bored fence with a whole board one.

I augur the board do not wish to be bored by

J. Mac Smith

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..... FAIRCHILD BLOCK.

O YE MISLETOE BOUGH.



"JAMIE"

I

Ye faire maide prepareth tea beneath ye
mistletoe.



"JAMIE"

II

Ye youths enter to do homage to ye maide
but each thinks there are two too many and



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Pictures,
Skates,
Sweaters,
Foot Balls,
And Many Others.



All retire.



Ye maide drinketh uppe ye tea and
groweth to look thus.

The modern man does nothing but stunts,
And he does them every day.
They begin when he makes his 8 e'clock,
And end oftymes with his play.

Its a stunt when he takes a drive round the lake,
When he catches a mouse in a trap.
It's a bigger one still when he jollies a prof.
Or gets what the world calls a snap.

He thinks it a stunt when he calls on a girl.
When he golfs, well he deems it a greater,
But the biggest is when he goes to the Prom
On a cheque derived from the pater.

1st Student—Hello Doc! Where have you been?
2nd Student—(With a gun): R. and I have been
hunting.

1st S.—Where is R?

2nd S.—Ah, he got shot, and couldnt walk
home, so I left him.

Sphinx Prizes

The SPHINX offers the prizes named below for contributions received before February 1, 1901. All students in the University are eligible to take part in the competition.

Literary

For the most suitable contribution, either prose or poetry, not exceeding 800 words, a set of Dickens' works, comprising fifteen volumes and valued at fifteen dollars, will be given.

For the next most suitable contribution, a pair of ladies' or gentlemen's four dollars kates, Barney & Berry make, size and kind to be determined by the winner.

For the best set of four joshes or joke, a stick pin valued at three dollars.

Art

For the best drawing or series of drawings, a set of volumes of Hudson's Shakespeare, valued at nine dollars, will be given.

For the next best drawing or series of drawings, a pair of ladies' or gentlemen's four dollar skates, Barney & Berry make, size and kind to be determined by the winner.

For the best full page cartoon a stick pin valued at three dollars.

The books and stick pins are on exhibition at the College Book Store.

These books have been kindly donated by the College Book Store.

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The following is extracted from an essay written by a schoolboy, aged ten, on a play he had been to see: "The villun curled his mustarch, and seezing the pure vurgin shreeks ha ha be mine or deaths blud is on my head this dagger stabs thee to thy uttermost sole ha ha vengeance. But the good hero comes and says O hev-ins stur won step and thy ded body lies at my door. Lay won parm on the vurgins korpse and it was better if you was drowned with a millstone. Avarnt avarnt from the sweet korpse presunz.—*Tit-Bits.*

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EXCELSIOR SHOE STORE.

In Anglo Saxon.

DR. B—TY: Mr. C—cles, what are the peculiarities of the neuter "a" declension?

MR. C—CLES: Why—er—the long stemmed monsyllables take e in the nominative-accusative singular,—er—when they're short.

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In 1492.

Victim—What are you trying to kill me for?

Master of the Inquisition—I'm not. I'm only making believe.—*Yale Record.*

Frame your picture properly. Framing is one of our specialties, and we do it cheaply.

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DAZZLE—Why?

RAZZLE—Because all I'd have to do if I felt off color, would be to go up to the calendar and take a day off.

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BAGGS—What are they arrest-
ing that old cooper for?

JAGGS—For keeping a bucket-
shop, I guess.—*Lampoon.*

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See the best skating shoe for the money
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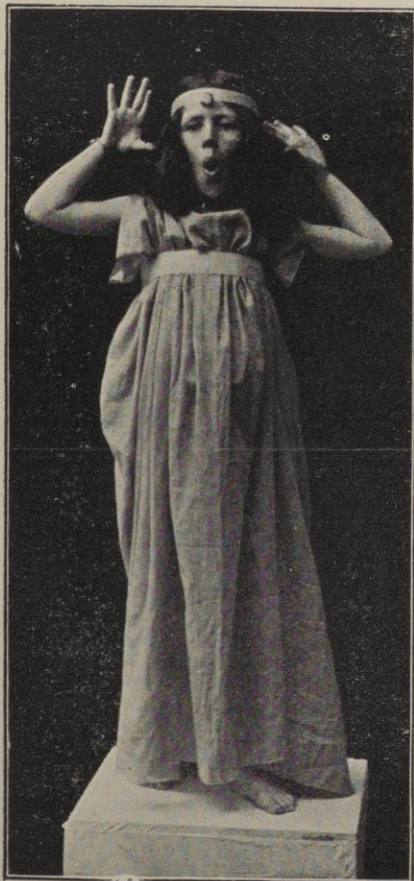
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Remember the folks at home with a
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Percy: What did you do?
Harold: I got shaved on my
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Buy her a box of Xmas candy at Pal-
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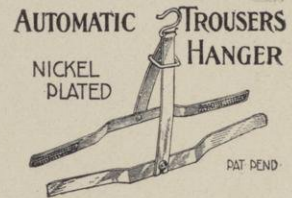
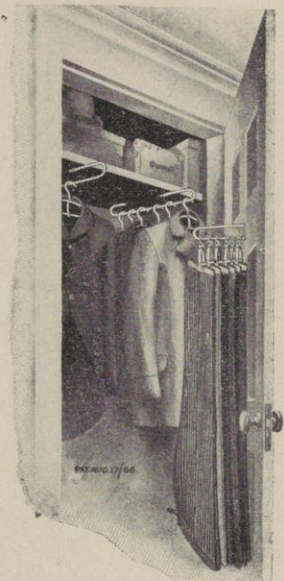
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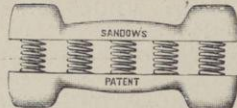
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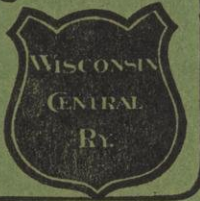
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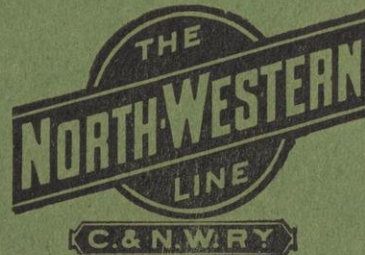
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