

The BULLETIN

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By

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SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Oxford Historical Record



Old Oxford Days--Reunion May 19.

By Clinton E. Weston

Many of us are looking forward to that day a few weeks hence when people from far and near will meet again in the old home town to renew acquaintances, exchange greetings and to join in hearty laughter as incidents and experiences of the days of yore are recalled. It goes without saying that it will be a Hap-Hap-Happy Day.

Starting in 1931 and continuing annually for ten years, the reunion has become an outstanding event with increasing numbers each year, and this year without doubt will top all others in point of attendance.

This may largely be accounted for by the wholesome atmosphere created by its simplicity and the genuine feeling of friendship among the people.

There are no restrictions as to membership, nor other set rules, and no attempt to make it an exclusive organization. On the other hand, a cordial invitation is extended to all former and present residents and their friends to come and enjoy a day in which all may feel that they, by their very presence, have contributed an important share in the success of the day.

I received a letter a few days ago in which the writer, who was born and lived in Oxford for a few years but still clings to the memory of her child-hood days, said, "Oxford gets me." and that sentiment, I believe, finds an echo in the minds and hearts of every one who has dwelt there.

Now is the time to plan for a day of rest and recreation, for Oxford beckons and awaits your coming with a warmth of cordiality to remind you that it ever remains your Old Home Town.

Mrs. James E. Loder writes that Mr. Humphrey expects to return to Staten Island by the first of next month. "He will write you himself before long, but he does wish his many friends, connected with Oxford to know how very much he has appreciated the letters and cards sent him during his illness. You will be glad to know that he was  
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Bulletin No. 507. March 31st, 1940

What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. --Psalm 8:4,5.

" We praise Thee, O god, for all Thou hast bestowed upon us with the gift of life, making us in Thine own image, and granting us to share as children in Thy knowledge and Thy love, Thy grace, Thy work and Thy joy. We thank Thee for all good things in the world, for food and raiment, for home and friendship, for useful tasks and pure pleasures. We thank Thee for all spiritual blessings, for the light of Thy Word, and the comfort of Thy Spirit. And above all we thank Thee for the redeeming life of Thy dear Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ."

A Congregational Meeting has been called by the Session for next Sabbath morning, following the morning worship. There will be annual reports and election of officers. The terms of Elder E. B. Foss, and Trustees Lewis E. Green, Benjamin Green and Hayden Docker have expired.

The Easter services last Sabbath morning were very satisfactory in the large attendance, in spite of the inclement weather, and the special music provided by the Choir. The number of Communicants was the largest for several years, the spiritual interest was deep and moving.

The Session met before Church and received the following new members, who were publicly welcomed by the Congregation preceding the Lord's Supper:--

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Brushett by letter from the Presbyterian Church at Hampton.

Miss Elizabeth Poch by confession of faith.



## More Home Remedies by Samuel J. Cooper

Hello Folks! How are you all? Well, I hope. If not you have my sympathy.

I trust your ailments are not serious enough to necessitate calling Ed. from his fireside way down Maine way to prescribe the proper remedy for you out of his imposing list of healing agents.

Now Ed. is a first class fellow, if a little modest. He has a knack of starting something and then calling others to his support, and as they come into the lime-light, he quietly disappears from the stage. Remember the horse business? So with this art of home healing he is again stepping behind the curtain and asking others to carry on. But as he has left the list incomplete so that others may share with him the honor of disseminating knowledge for the alleviation of suffering man, I will endeavor to help along the good cause. (When Mrs Cooper read his article she remarked, "I would like to see Ed. and ask him if he were sure the remedies are not worse than the diseases.")

First I will mention that standard remedy for chapped hands: mutton tallow and the green inner bark of the elder (not alder) berry well heated, thoroughly mixed, allowed to cool, and applied to hands as needed.

Along this line I will also mention the cauterizing of those ugly and painful cracks, like knife cuts which often come into hands and fingers, perhaps caused by poor soap and exposure to hard rough work. The procedure being to light a tallow candle, in that period a standard equipment in the home, then take a piece of sealing wax, shoemaker's wax or grafting wax; hold in the flame until it ignited then quickly pull it back allowing the molten material to drop into the crack. Did the crack heal? Sure. If it didn't the burn did, and as they were in the same place the desired result was obtained.

Beef gall - bottled and saved when a beef was butchered - poured into a wound before binding up to kill the poison. Fresh wood-ashes applied to a cut while still bleeding and securely bound on. Horse-radish leaves bound over the forehead and

temples, for headache. Lard and turpentine well mixed, spread on a cloth and applied over the chest and then securely bound there, and a woolen stocking - the good old fashioned kind, hand knit from heavy yarn and of full knee length - wrapped around the neck and firmly fastened. Good for sore throat and chest cold, guaranteed to produce a howl of protest from the young victim, and not always so young either. And now for two or three internal treatments: Ash tea made by putting fresh wood ashes in hot water and standing a short time, and drinking a good sized cup full, to cure "tummy ache."

Strawberry plant tea, for summer-complaint. Wild cherry bark tea as a tonic. For boils: a quart of good apple or rye whiskey poured over a cup of cedar berries, allowed to stand for a few days and then taken in small doses three times a day.

(This must have been a tried and proven remedy, as I remember that in my youthful days a young Presbyterian minister, who was like Job, afflicted with boils, came to the farm on which I lived and gathered the cedar berries to prepare the remedy for a course of treatment.)

Then there was the remedy for asthma sufferers:--the leaves of the vile smelling jimson-weed, commonly known as stink-weed, dried and smoked usually in a clay pipe. I sometimes wonder if the virtue of some of these remedies was not more in their repulsiveness than in fact.

There was another class of diseases with which children were afflicted. Ed. and Clin. have not mentioned them, I am wondering why. Did they reach manhood's stage without being infected, and receiving home treatment? I doubt it. I will classify them under the broad heading of mental and moral (or immoral?) acts of omission and commission, and most often evidenced by the widely inclusive symptom, known as disobedience. The remedy principally used was often spoken of as 'birch oil' or whatever may have been the name of the medium used to convey to the afflicted one a stimulant to counteract, destroy or at least, retard the germs characterizing the outbreak. (over)



Frequently teachers assumed the parental prerogative. Our school Principal, A. H. Skinner, a man of no mean ability as an instructor and disciplinarian, had two instruments that he used very effectively; the birch perhaps was his favorite, but a light rawhide riding whip was a close second. If nothing so severe was considered necessary he was a past-master at "spinning the top," with frequent and sudden reverses and then when the patient (shall I say victim) became too groggy to maintain an upright position he was seized by the shoulders and shaken in no very gentle manner.

This appeared effectively to rid him of the active germs causing the manifestations. A. H., as we called him, had yet another, but seldom used treatment that was quite successful.

This consisted of using the second finger of his right hand bent and held by his thumb, and then released like a bent spring to come in contact with the side of the transgressor's head. This treatment started the tears rolling down the cheeks and, we will suppose, carried the evil germs with them; for the patient promptly assumed a different attitude toward the teacher's orders.

Our good friend, Charles Aitkin, assistant Principal, was also said to have kept a small green colored rawhide whip curled up on his desk, and which on rare occasions - its presence was usually sufficient - was brought forth to help maintain a high state of mental and moral well-being among his pupils.

The lady teachers usually used a ruler, applying it to the palm of the hand with the fingers bent back.

For an especial attack they were known to have the sufferer stoop over and while in this position receive a number of contacts from a rapidly descending ruler, across the seat of the pants, causing a protesting outcry and violent contortions, but apparently to their lasting benefit.

The home treatments were more varied as to the applicators, for to those used by the teachers were added the back of a hair brush, a strap, the sole of a slipper, a buggy whip, the palm of the hand, and no doubt a number of others. As for myself

after a lapse of over sixty years, I recall three treatments, one by my mother with the sole of her slipper, and two by father, one flavored with peach and the other with chestnut.

These three applications must have been well administered, as I still have a clear mental picture of the settings.

When we look back over the roster of Oxford people and their attainments, we reach the conclusion that if perchance the remedies were not beneficial they were harmless and a people possessed of physical, mental and moral traits of a high degree.

Long Live Oxfordites!

(from front cover)

able to attend Church on Easter Sunday. And it was a great event as it was practically his first "outing".

Mr. Weston points out two bad mistakes made in his article in last issue. The address of Mrs John Howell is Pine Bush, not Flat Bush, and the sentence should read, "An exultant feeling at the time, an excusable one." It was surely an inexcusable error.

The Ladies Aid will meet at the home of Mrs. Albert Brushett on next Tuesday afternoon, at 2:30.

The Hillside Cemetery Association will hold the monthly meeting at the M. E. Church Sunday Mch. 31st. at 2 P.M.

The Bulletin has received from Mr. Edwin J. Perkins a 24 page folder entitled, "Ogunquit, Maine, the 'beautiful place by the sea.'" It is made up of fine photographs and issued by "The Ogunquit Publicity Bureau," of which Mr. Perkins is the chairman, and he is the author and designer of this most attractive pamphlet. No doubt he will be pleased to send a copy to any of his old friends who may contemplate a motor trip to Maine the coming summer.





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