

# "KNOCKING ON WOOD" MOST COMMON OF SUPERSTITIONS

By ALTON L. BLAKESLEE

ST. LOUIS (AP)—"Knocking on wood" for luck is one of the most common of 80,000 superstitions, a psychiatrist said today, and here's why:

It can be a call on magic, a way of handling anxiety or worry, a defence against envy, a sign that emotionally the knocker is pretty immature.

This analysis was presented to the American Psychiatric Association by Dr. Judd Marmor, University of California at Los Angeles, in a prepared paper.

Knocking on wood apparently stems from a primitive belief of protective gods inside trees, Dr. Marmor said. It represents a fear of antagonizing some all-seeing higher authority. Many people apparently assume that pride, success, or self-confidence will create envy or antagonism by this "authority."

## TRACES OF CHILDHOOD

This apparently traces back to childish fears of offending such authorities as parents or brothers or sisters, and to the feeling one must be humble and compliant in order to be loved.

In our highly competitive society, "knocking on wood" takes on additional meanings. We try to make light of our good fortunes to avoid envy by our fellows or rivals.

So we knock on wood to indicate we are just lucky, or say our health "is not bad" when it's really excellent, or say business is "fair" when it's really good.

Many people will discuss intimate aspects of their sex lives than the details of their financial structure, particularly if there are any assets which might arouse envy," Dr. Marmor said.

## Women Control Buying Power

LONDON, Ont. (CP)—The housewife consumer is largely responsible for present-day prices, Madame H. E. Vautelet of Montreal told the London branch of the Canadian Association of Consumers here Wednesday night.

Madame Vautelet, national president of the CAC, a nation-wide women's organization for consumer protection, said economics in Canada today "wears skirts, not trousers."

"Today 'buying' is Canada's biggest single business—and we women manage it," she said.

Each time a woman enters a store she has the power to decide what it will pay Canada's manpower most to produce, Madame Vautelet said.

## W. M. S. Meetings

The Afternoon Auxiliary of the W. M. S. of the Summerside Trinity Church held its May meeting in the church parlor with the president, Mrs. Hammond Johnson, in the chair and Mrs. L. M. Calbeck at the piano. The opening hymn "Jesus Shall Reign" was followed by prayer by the president. The worship service was in charge of Mrs. Roland Philpott on the theme "The Christian and his vocation." After the singing of hymn "Forth in Thy name O Lord I go," the leader read the Scripture lesson from St. John 12, and offered prayer. Mrs. W. K. Llewellyn gave the meditation on "The Testimony of Empty Places." The sixth chapter entitled "Modern Miracles" from the study book "Where'er the Sun" was presented by Mrs. Victor Travers. The closing prayer and benediction were given by Mrs. A. S. Sharp.

Mrs. W. A. Currie entertained the members of the W. M. S. of the Baptist Church at its monthly meeting on Tuesday afternoon at her home in Summerside. The president, Mrs. Jack MacLeod, was in charge of the meeting. Following invocation and prayer the hymn "O Trinity of Blessed Light" was sung and the twenty-third psalm, the theme of the worship read in unison. The meditation was given by the president. The delegates, Mrs. W. G. Ellis, Mrs. W. Inman and Mrs. C. B. Jelly, were appointed to attend the Baptist District Meeting in Belmont, Lot 16, on May 14. The treasurer, Mrs. Ellis, submitted a most gratifying report on the Easter offering and Acadia Fund. The nominating committee, Mrs. Currie, Mrs. Inman and Mrs. A. W. Leard, was appointed to bring in a slate of officers for the June meeting. The president reported on the Maritime W. M. S. executive which met in Amherst, N.S. last week. The closing hymn "Saviour like a Shepherd" was followed by prayer and the Mizpah benediction. A social hour followed when refreshments were served by the hostesses.

The Trinity Evening Auxiliary met in the church parlor, Summerside, on Tuesday evening for the May meeting. The theme of the worship service "The Gospel according to you" was conducted by Mrs. Clifford Rankin. The opening hymn "O Lord and Master of us all" with Miss Jean Gordon at the piano, was followed by the Scripture lesson by Mrs. Lorne Campbell and meditation by the leader and prayer by Mrs. Harold Milligan. The leader read an excerpt from Miss Wilna Thomas' report to the Dominion Board, after which the hymn "Where cross the crowded ways of life" was sung. Two interesting and instructive films "Citizens' Barks" and "Peter the Potter" were shown. The president, Mrs. Wm. Roach, conducted the business session when the Supply Secretary, Miss Mabel Linkletter, reported that two cartons of clothing, package of yarn and cottons had been shipped to Korea. It was decided to send yarn again after the June meeting. Fifteen homes and eleven hospital calls were reported. Following the Mizpah benediction refreshments were served and a social half hour enjoyed.

## Safety Program

SAINT JOHN, N.B., May 6 — Management leads the way in any successful industrial safety program, J. C. Kendel, of Montreal assistant to the Vice-President of operation of the Canadian National Railways, told the New Brunswick accident prevention association here last night. "Technological developments and the pressure of competition are combining to increase the speed and precision of industrial operations," said Mr. Kendel, "and it is up to management to offset the increased hazards which are created by this faster pace."

In the introduction of technical improvements, he said, it is as necessary to have thoroughly trained personnel for accident prevention as it is for the efficient operation of the apparatus. "Management is giving more attention to the problem of accident prone individuals — persons who have a history of accident repetition in the home and at work; accidents that can often be traced to job frustrations and dissatisfactions."

Mr. Kendel said that the basic challenge to the railway is to provide safety for its employees and the public, and to promote overall efficiency in operations through safe practices.

"Train crews and other key employees are required to pass strict medical examinations periodically," he continued. "Educational work includes the provision of adequate safety, rule and other instruction cards, safety rule books, and manuals dealing with maintenance and inspection services. Audio-visual methods are being more extensively used at employee safety meetings and rallies across the country."

The terrific drag on the financial resources of the industry is but one important consideration in a high employee accident rate, said Mr. Kendel. We cannot fail to be impressed also with the suffering of an injured employee and the distress and anxiety which beset his family, as they, too, share in his physical impairment.

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## The Neighbors

By George Clark



"First he played hard to get, now he's playing hard to get rid of."



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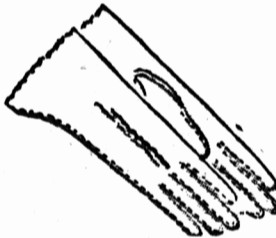
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