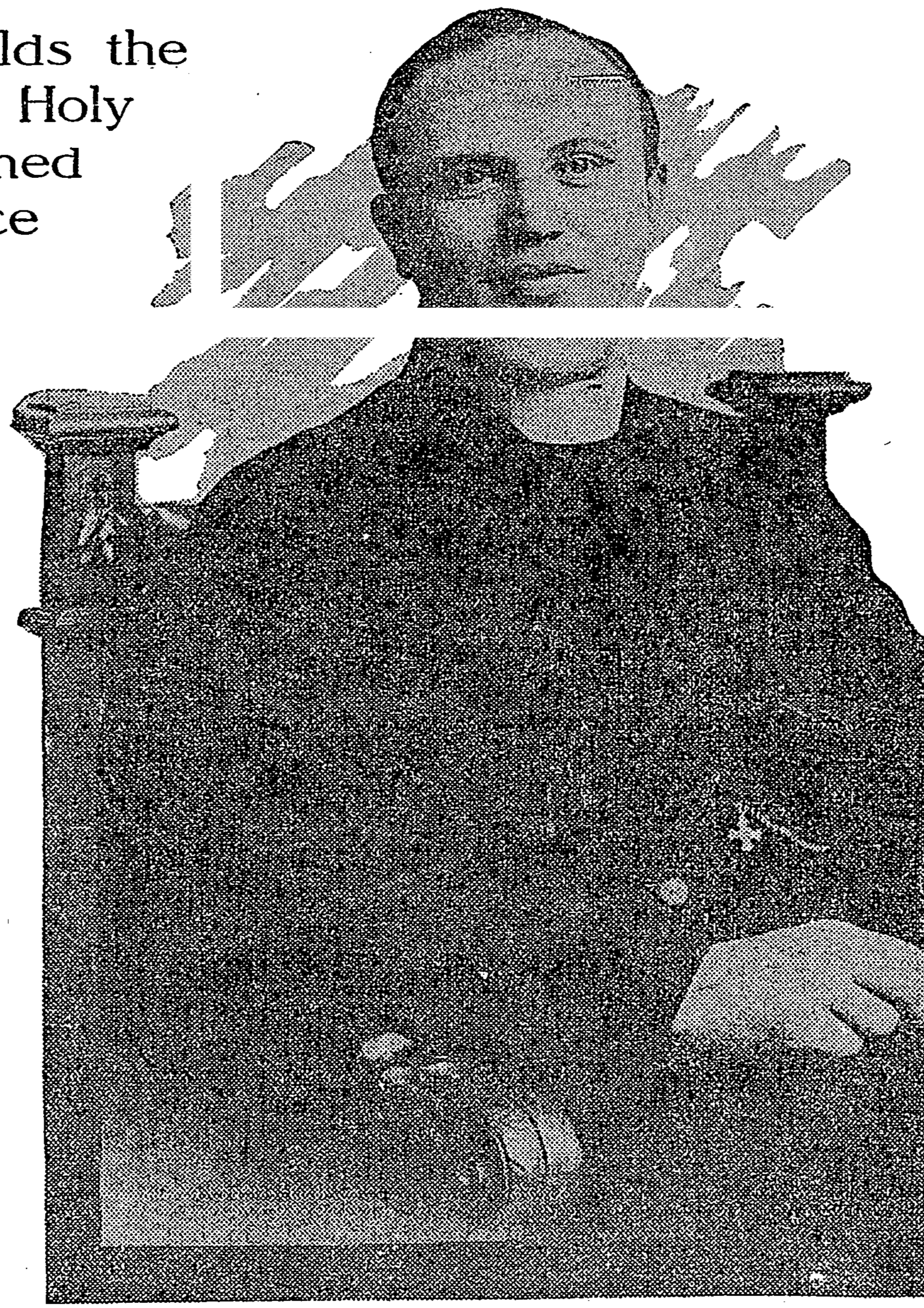


# COLLEGE PROFESSOR SUGGESTS A CURE FOR LYING

Rev. Robert Schwickerath, Who Holds the Chair of History and Pedagogy at Holy Cross, Says the So-called Confirmed Liar Can Be Cured by Patience and Sympathetic Interest.



Prof. Robert Schwickerath, of Holy Cross College.

ON Christmas morning when little Willie with his new drum and rubber boots clasped tight in his arms crawls up on your knee and says, "Fa, that's come from the North Pole," you are tempted to say with perfect freedom, "Why, Willie, Santa Claus brought them." It will not be lying. It will be "poetic fiction."

But when the rent collector comes around and raps threateningly at the door, and you find that several dollars short of the monthly contribution to the landlord, it is very unwise to send Willie to the door with the announcement that "there's no one at home," for you are liable to start Willie in the disgraceful habit of lying. It is a very risky thing to do.

Rev. Father Robert Schwickerath, S. J., professor of pedagogy and history at Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass., and a well-known authority on the training of children, says that parents must be very careful in the way they handle truth when they are dealing with children. He says that parents are often responsible for the habit of lying in children.

In the little reception room at Holy Cross College Father Schwickerath told a TIMES representative of the risk parents run in influencing their children to become liars. He dwelt at some length upon the various causes of lying and upon the methods of checking the tendency in the early training of children.

Father Schwickerath is a noted educator and author. He has been professor of pedagogy and history at Holy Cross College for four years. A German by birth, he received his education in the gymnasiums and universities of Germany. He has written several historical works, and his views upon the education of children are accepted by many of the educators of the East. At a recent meeting of the Catholic teachers of the Archdiocese of Boston, Father Schwickerath delivered a series of lectures upon the "Prevention and Cure of So-called School Evils, Especially Lying, Cheating, &c."

Father Schwickerath is a short, stocky man, amply filling his cassock. He has a large, cheerful face, which is constantly breaking into a smile. Above a very high forehead there is a head of curly black hair, which is beginning to thin a little. As he talked to the TIMES representative he paced nervously up and down the floor of the little reception room, stopping now and then to gaze out the window at the janitors preparing the campus for the opening of college, or to look up at the pictures of former professors

of the college which stare down from the whitewashed walls.

"Unfortunately," he said, "parents are to be blamed sometimes for the habit of lying in children. Some of them are untruthful. They should remember that there is not only a child study on the part of the adult but also a parent study on the part of a child. And children are keen observers, often remarkably so. I should say to the parents who are given to lying before their children, 'Beware, the children will find you out.'"

"As trifling as these conventional lies may appear, they have a most disastrous effect upon the children. For example, a mother tells her child not to tell his father of something that happened during the day, or the father teaches him to deceive his mother. Such things have more common instances."

Here the round face of the priest broke into a smile. "Take the case of the rent collector," he said, "which happens very often. The mother calls, and the mother sends her child to the door to say that she is not at home. That falsehood will have its effect upon the child."

Father Schwickerath said that the little fiction of being "not at home" when some visitor calls was practically no longer a lie.

"People realize now," he said, "that it is merely a phrase used by people to indicate that they do not care to receive visitors."

"Do you think?" he was asked, "that telling the children the stories like that of Santa Claus does them any harm?"

"No," Father Schwickerath replied, "there is no danger in that. In fact, that is not exactly a lie. It is a fiction of another sort, a sort of a poetic fiction. Children invariably discriminate between poetic fiction and a real lie. I know some educators would have us cease telling the children all fairy tales and myths, arguing that it teaches them to lie, but I am inclined to disagree with them. Children soon realize that these fables are nothing more than poetic fiction, and to deprive them of these pleasures would not be quite right."

Returning to the influence parents have over their children in the matter of lying, he said: "In the presence of the children parents tell what they call 'clever tricks' which they practiced, but which in reality were lies. Or when they hear what tricks their sons have played, how they have 'foiled' some one, or to amuse the teacher, they chuckle over it,

tell others how clever, how diplomatic their son is, forgetting they thereby encourage him in his duplicity. They admire their boy for his 'diplomacy,' and some young children are found to be adept in this questionable diplomacy."

"Such conduct on the part of parents and adults in general is most disastrous, is outrageous. And then parents expect teachers to cure children of lying and severely censure teachers and school, denounce their inefficiency, if they are not able to do so, to undo the evil which they have caused or fostered!"

Father Schwickerath discussed the question of lying and its relation to the schools.

"Lying," he said, "is one of the most vexing and often perplexing school evils. Many children tell lies, perhaps most of them. They make little of what they call 'white lies,' or fibs. They lie for failure to hand in tasks, for missing class—and many a good mother or grandmother was reported ailing or dying who was in the best of health. Again they often lie when censured for talking or causing other disturbance. 'It wasn't me,' is the quick answer in many cases, although the teacher may have seen the culprit talk."

"Some educators look upon such lies as trifles, while others consider them too trivial. Both are extreme views, particularly the former. Though the offenses in themselves may be light, yet they are to be treated as serious matters, considering the consequences they may have and will have on the character of the individual. If the practice is not checked it will grow into a habit, and a downright mendacity will be the result."

good-natured manner will be far more effective than severity."

Father Schwickerath told a story illustrating what he meant by the good-natured manner.

"A professor," he said, "had lost his cane. It evidently had been hidden by one of his pupils. He deliberated what to do in the matter. He knew that no one would volunteer to tell him his lie, and that if he charged the class with it he would be greeted with lies. So he went to the classroom and said, 'Well, I never knew there were so many jokers in my class, but yesterday one played an awful trick on me. He stole my cane and I had to go home without it.' This was greeted by laughter from the students."

"Lying should be prevented. Much can be prevented by prudence and tact and sympathetic treatment of children. It's a pity that I haven't got my cane here now. Let's go on." So you see in this manner many lies were prevented."

Father Schwickerath chuckled as he told the story.

"A candid confession," he said, "will usually dispense with further punishment. Of course if pardon invariably followed, confession would then have no good effects. Still frank admission of a fault is always taken as partial satisfaction."

"It is much more difficult to assign general remedies for the cure of the habit of lying. Here, as in other cases, a specific remedy is needed. It is important to know that the lies are different according to the source from which they flow."

"There is the pathological lie, which arises from a serious mental and moral defect, which has its root in a physical cause. This has to be treated rather by a physician than by the teacher. There is the lie which results from an exuberant and excessively lively imagination, which leads to habitual exaggerations. The boy comes in great excitement, telling his father that he saw at least twenty dogs fighting together. A calm examination and inquiry would bring forth the final admission that there were three."

"Another class of lies comes from nervousness, excitement, and fear of punishment. This must be treated with kindness and sympathy and will be usually prevented by reasonable and fair treatment."

"Then there is what has been called the heroic lie, when one tells a lie to protect some one else, even takes the blame and punishment upon himself to shield another. In some cases this arises from a naturally generous, almost chivalrous, disposition. The offender should be told that his generosity is to be admired, and that it is well he should show it wherever he honorably and lawfully can, but that this lie is the wrong way of showing it, and the end does not justify the means, and that he injures his own character."

"This applies also to those cases in which one helps others by allowing them to copy his themes, tasks, &c. Some tell the child in such cases that they act unwisely, as their parents do not give all they have to their neighbors, so they should keep the fruits of their labors to themselves. I would not easily use this method. Does it not appeal too much to

selfishness? And of this there is too much. Would it not mean in scripture language driving out one devil by another? Rather should the child be told that he is right in his generosity, whatever he can do so without violating a law of morality; that, far from helping his friend, he injures him by encouraging him in his laziness and dishonesty. In this way it is possible to prevent dishonesty without destroying that beautiful spirit of helpfulness."

"There is no reason to despair even in the case of a so-called confirmed liar. He may not be so 'confirmed' as he appears. The teacher should never forget that there are no moral incurables. Certainly no child should ever be told that he is a hopeless case, nor is it wise to tell a child, 'Because you told me one lie I shall never believe you again!'"

Would not this be in the scripture language, 'breaking the bruised reed and quenching the smoking flax?'"

"Such proceeding would destroy all hope, all moral effort. There is usually in children, after they have been found guilty of a deceit, a yearning desire to be trusted again. The prudent and sympathetic teacher will utilize this desire, may even say to the child, 'If now you try to be strictly truthful I shall give you my full confidence again and act as if nothing had happened.'"

"There are known cases of boys who, given to lying when once thoroughly convinced of the disgracefulness of this habit conceived a horror of it, became disgusted with everything dishonest, and became distinguished for uprightness and truthfulness. There is sometimes a peculiar clearness about characters which by humiliating experience have learned to be true after having been deceitful."

"Most lies originate from sheer egotism, and they are employed, to gain some emolument or other. Or, as is so commonly the case with children, lies are told to escape censure and punishment. As the umbrella is used against rain and snow, so lies are used by children to keep off censure and punishment."

"It is not asserted that all children can be cured of the habit of lying if they once acquire it; still the majority of them can be broken from the habit."

"And about the adults?" he was asked.

"That is an entirely different matter," he replied. "It is a more complicated matter and involves the question of self-education. For example, a young man, twenty years old, who is employed in an office, is in the habit of lying. His employer finds it out. He does not say 'I'm through with you.' He does not say 'I'm through with a thief.' That old adage is not always true."

"He takes the young man and reasons with him, points out how it means his ruin in business and private life. Perhaps the young man has never thought of the matter before, has been careless. He begins his own system of correcting his fault."

"But," said Father Schwickerath, shaking his head, "the philosophy of adult lying is too complicated a matter, and I guess I had better not go into it."

## SCIENTISTS SEEK SECRETS OF ALTITUDE ON PIKE'S PEAK

Important Tests of Effect of Height on Blood and Respiratory System Made in a Laboratory Fitted Up for the Purpose—Unique Experiments May Give Interesting Results in Varied Fields.

THE spectacle of scholarly looking men madly charging up a twenty-five per cent. incline of the timber line, or working with various complicated-looking instruments on the summit of Pike's Peak, has astonished many Colorado tourists of late. Four English and American scientists have united in making exhaustive studies of the effect of high altitudes on the human system and have been undergoing the most strenuous personal tests on the summit of America's most famous mountain, 14,147 feet above sea level.

The scientists who are carrying on this important work are Prof. J. A. Haldane and Prof. C. Gordon Douglas of Oxford, Prof. Yandell Henderson of Yale Medical, and Prof. Edward C. Schneider of Colorado College.

Prof. Haldane, who ranks high among modern men of science in Europe, conceived the idea of carrying on tests to show the effect of high altitudes upon the blood and the respiratory system. He had intended to go to the Andes to pursue his investigations, but Prof. Henderson, on meeting him in Vienna, persuaded him that Pike's Peak offered the best opportunities for study, as this peak is visited by a large number of individuals every summer, most of whom are carried to the summit by the cog railroad, thus eliminating the question of fatigue. The experiments that have been carried on heretofore have been on mountains without railroad facilities, and the complications of fatigue have disturbed the calculations of scientists carrying on the work.

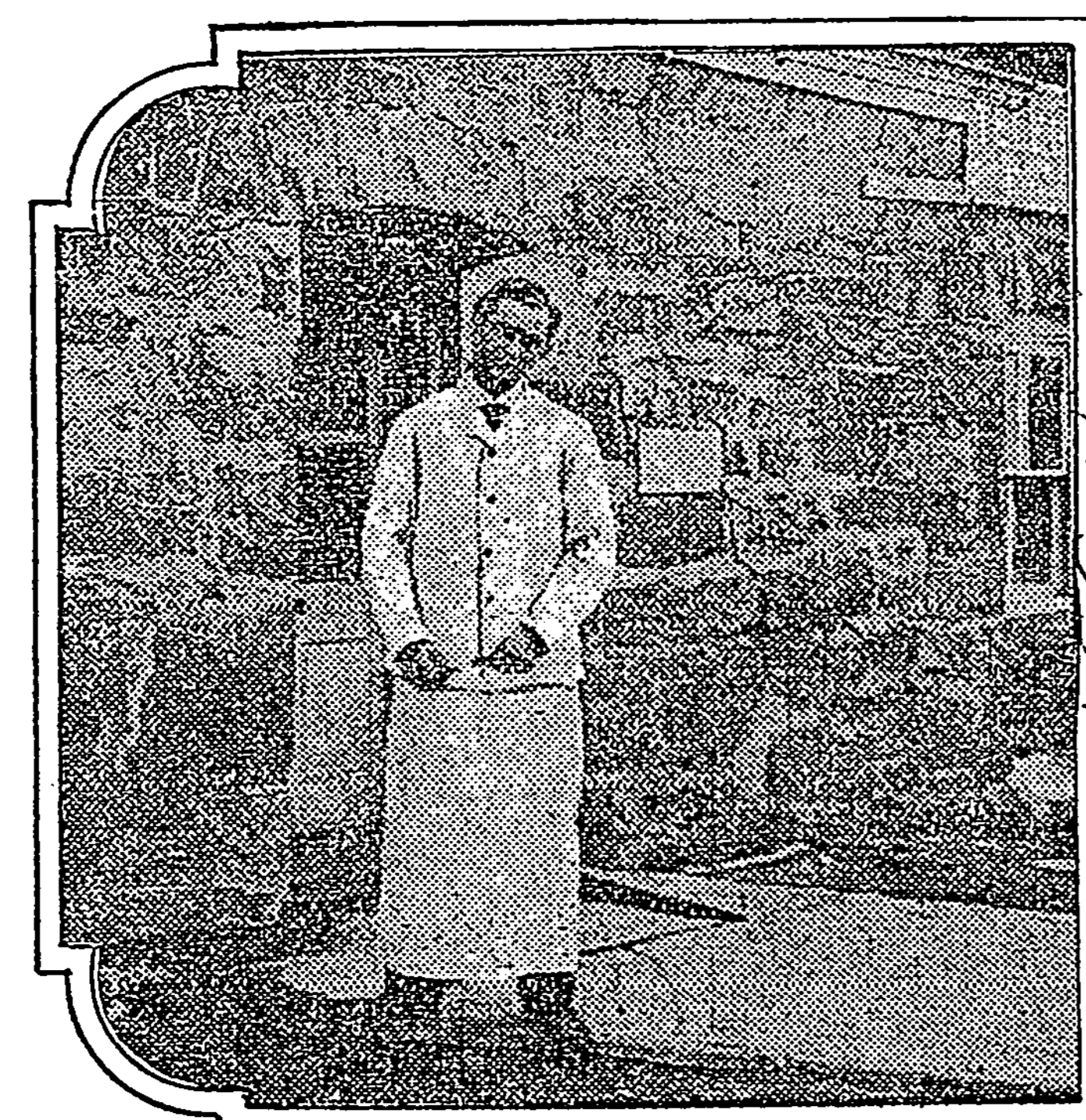
The scientists arrived on the peak July 12, and at once began their series of tests, which had been planned months before. A laboratory was fitted up in the Summit House, and Prof. Haldane and Prof. Douglas installed instruments of their own devising, which made the series of experiments possible.

Of the utmost importance was Prof. Haldane's method of determining the amount of blood volume. This enabled the scientists to determine, after less than two weeks of work upon the peak, that while living in high altitudes increases the richness of the blood in hemoglobin, the actual volume of blood remains stationary. In other words, while the blood becomes richer in red corpuscles, the amount of blood does not increase. The increased richness of the blood is due, it was ascertained, to the absorption of oxygen through the lungs. It was found that the blood increases in its capacity for carrying oxygen, and the scientists are confident that they will be able to show, as a result of their experiments, that there is a pushing of oxygen into the blood through the lungs to make up for the deficiency of oxygen in the air at high altitudes.

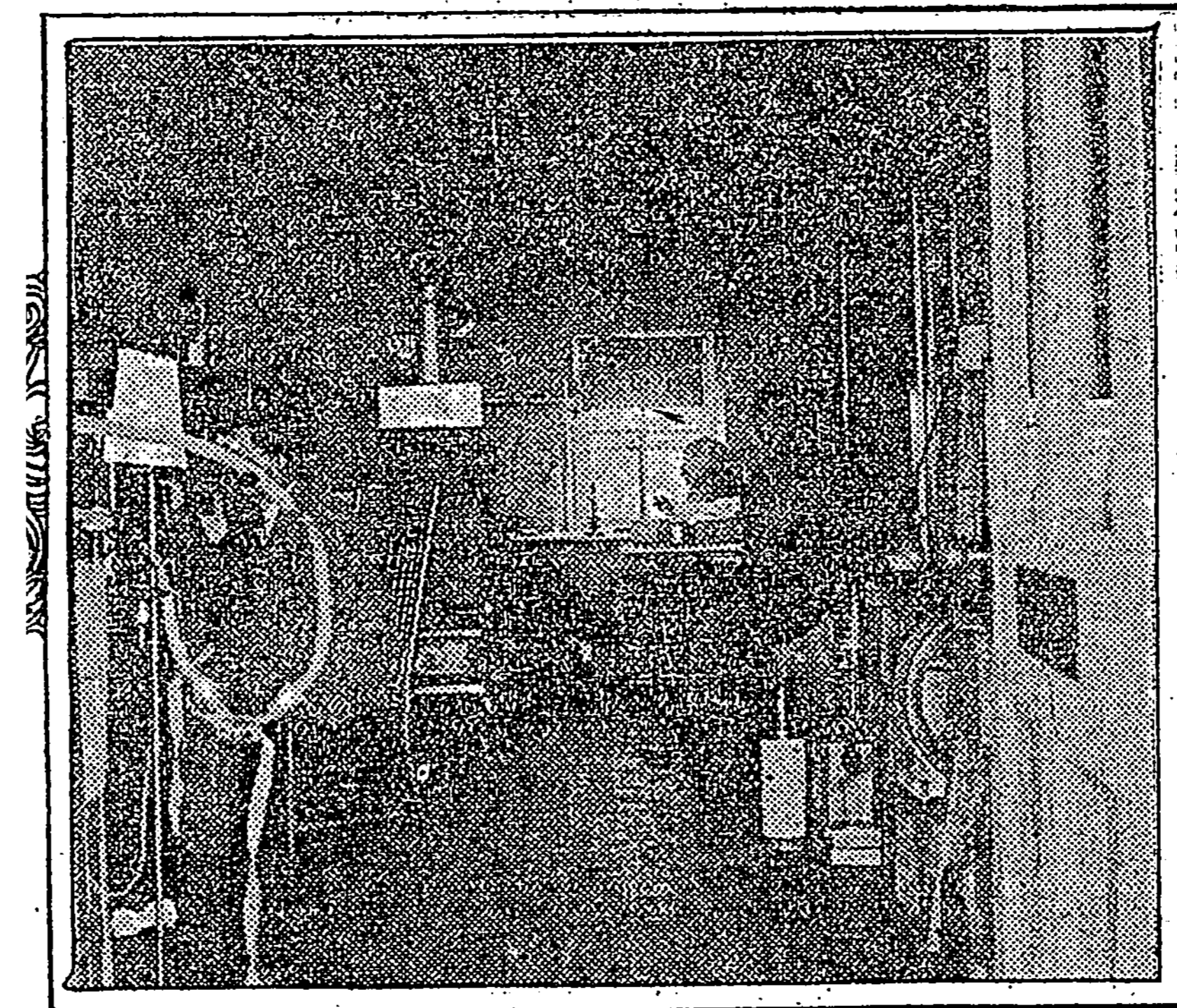
The scientists have not only tried blood experiments on themselves at the summit of Pike's Peak, but have ample basis of comparison, owing to their experiments at varying levels before taking up the work on the mountain.

On the peak they found a very interesting subject in H. H. Robison, who is in charge of the restaurant on the mountain, and who has lived at the summit every summer for twelve years. Mr. Robison's blood shows a surprising amount of hemoglobin, and the scientists were astounded at his blood analysis. It is estimated that his blood is fully forty per cent. richer in hemoglobin than the blood of a person living at sea level, and about 25 per cent. richer than the blood of a person living at Colorado Springs, an altitude of 6,000 feet.

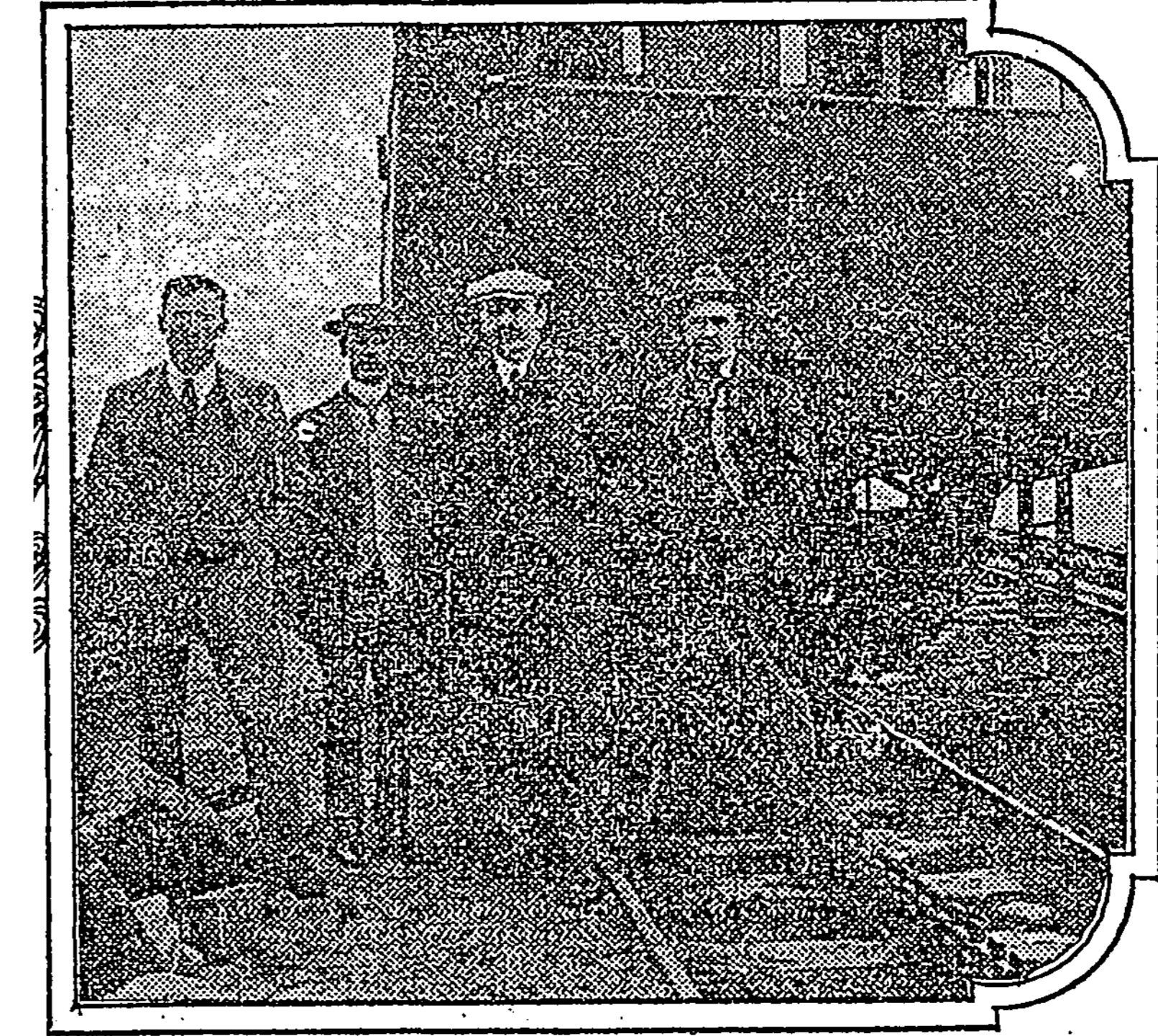
Hemoglobin is the red substance which carries about nine-tenths of the dry constituents of the red blood corpuscles and serves as a carrier of oxygen into the circulation. Mr. Robison, whose blood is



H. H. Robison, Who Has Lived on the Peak for 12 Years, an Important Subject for Blood Tests.



The Improvised Laboratory on Pike's Peak Where Blood Tests Are Being Made.



Scientists on Pike's Peak. From Left to Right, Profs. E. C. Schneider, J. A. Haldane and Y. Henderson.

the richest examined by the scientists on the peak, holds the walking record on Manitou, at the base of the mountain, to the summit, a distance of eight miles, which he covered in two hours and thirty-one minutes.

The scientists have taken blood tests every day, and have not only devoted

much attention to the subject of the oxygen-carrying materials in the circulation, but have tried to solve some of the problems of the white blood corpuscles which have baffled science for years. Samples of blood from each of the scientists have been sent every day or two to Dr. Gerald V. Webb of Colorado Springs, an expert

in the study of white blood corpuscles. The question of circulation at high altitudes is being studied in a thorough manner. Last winter Drs. Henderson and Schneider at Yale tried to determine the rate of flow of blood through the lungs per second. They reached a method that does this approximately, through the ad-

ministration of what is commonly known as "laughing gas," and noting the rate of absorption of that. The test is being made on top of the peak, and comparisons with the deductions at lower levels are being made. Data is being secured, also, on the output of blood at each beat of the heart. This is ascertained by

a system of recoil, and comparisons of observations at low and high altitudes are made.

In order to determine the difference in the consumption of oxygen in the lungs at work and at rest the most strenuous exercises are taken by the scientists. This brings into play a unique device invented

by Prof. Douglas for determining the combustion products of the lungs. This is a knapsacklike arrangement which is fastened over the scientist's back. A tube connects the scientist's mouth with the bag. A "hike" of a mile is taken at top speed up a twenty-five per cent. grade of the cog road just below the summit of the peak. During the walk the lungs have been working at four or five times their normal speed. The scientist takes the bag into the laboratory and not only determines the combustion products of the lungs, but is able to figure out the exact number of breaths he has breathed into the device.

All the modifications of breathing under normal conditions are determined by a Cheyne-Stokes recorder, which makes a record much like the markings of a sismograph. The faintest breathing is recorded by this delicate instrument. It has been shown that breathing at a high altitude is marked by curious irregularities, even when the subject is asleep. In general, one's breathing on a place like Pike's Peak consists of a series of short breaths, followed by a rest. This, it is stated, could not be done at sea level if one tried.

The subject of mountain sickness in general is being closely followed by the scientists. They have ample opportunity to observe this sickness in all its forms among the tourists who arrive on the peak, either on the cog road, on burro back, or on foot. On several occasions the scientists have performed "first aid" work in giving oxygen to climbers who have arrived exhausted. Their ready response to the oxygen treatment is held as conclusive proof that the lack of oxygen in the atmosphere is responsible for mountain sickness. This form of sickness is distinguishable by a blueness of the lips and tongue. It is most severe when fatigue enters.

While the scientists have been carrying out their work on Pike's Peak, Miss Mabel Fitzgerald, one of Prof. Haldane's pupils, has been visiting Cripple Creek, Leadville, and other places at varying altitudes in the Rocky Mountains, and making minute observations. These will be compared with the observations of Prof. Haldane and his colleagues on the peak.

### Swatting the Flies

THE "swat the fly" crusade has many sides. In a New Jersey village where large families are fashionable it is one means of amusing the children.

The mother of six made an offer of five cents for every twenty flies demolished and presented in a basket as a voucher. The six, or such of them as have reached an age to make the equal of a fly to a contest of strength, set to work and found that it did not take long to get twenty. Frequent visits to the local toy shops on the part of this opulent family caused inquiry from their less prosperous playmates. When the secret of getting rich quick was told the other children went to their mothers and held them up with a similar proposition, which in every case met with acceptance.

Prices have been regulated by a trust of mothers so that the children are all paid alike. They get a premium of an extra five cents when they have killed one hundred flies.

Why? No one has ever explained satisfactorily why women's garments always button on the left side, and men's always on the right. A downtown shop where feminine apparel is sold has in the window some outing waists which button on the heart side as usual, but

### The House Bible

NOW that you are married," said the experienced minister to the young curate, "you will have to stop using the church Bible for home study. Oh, yes, I know how it is. You get attached to a certain Bible and can study better and preach better with that right under your nose, and would willingly pack it back and forth for the inspiration it affords. I've been through it. Used to do that very thing myself, but after half a dozen veils and a pair of gloves and some little lacey things that I shall not attempt to specify floated down from the pulpit on Sunday mornings in view of an astonished and amused congregation I accustomed myself to two Bibles. The women folk will put things into the Bible to press. It is a habit you can't break them of, and the first thing you know these feminine knick-knacks are sailing away to humiliate you."

That night the curate turned the pages of his Bible carefully. A veil and a scrap of lace fell out. He sighed. The next day he began to cultivate an affection for a second Bible.

The Curate of Clara. ONE day when Mrs. Bell was making a neighborly call on Mrs. Ellis, the latter, in the presence of her caller, discharged her colored maid, whose ob-

### A Fashion Reporter

WHEN it was reported that the cross street policeman had been promoted to the Fifth Avenue squad the policeman's wife declared that she was the happiest woman in New York.

"Oh, it isn't the salary," she said, "nor the honor. I don't know whether he will get any more money or not, and as for the honor, he had enough of that long ago. But the fashions, just think of them, he will pick up on them. For the last five years I have been sick with envy of the Fifth Avenue policemen's wives every time I went to a policeman's ball. They looked so chic. When asked where they got their ideas they said:

"Why, from my husband, of course. He is right in the centre of fashion, and he takes notes and comes home and tells me things. Then when I get my clothes made up he can compare me with the women he sees every day and tell whether I look just right or not."

"Now it is my turn to crow. My husband's eye for clothes is as keen as any man's and there won't be much in the way of style that will escape him. Oh, yes, no doubt he will keep pretty busy managing the traffic, but you can trust him to find out how the new clothes are made, just the same."

What opinion. STELLA—What do you think of marrying a nobleman? BELLA—it is like buying a fish instead of catching it.