Superstitions of Grayson County

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SUPERSTITIONS OF GRAYSON COUNTY

BY

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INTRODUCTION

For this collection of odd beliefs to serve as an amusement to the curious is not the purpose of this treatise of superstitions. The end sought is not humor or satire. It is not the intention of the author to cast a reflection in any form upon persons who are inclined to be superstitious. A belief in superstitions is by far more widespread than most people would suspect. Is it not true that superstitions swayed the minds of people in earlier centuries? Are we not descendants of those people? We hear many of their songs; their laws were the forerunners of our own. Tradition has handed down to us many of their customs, and they are not to be erased from memory ever night. It is difficult to say when a practice or belief is quite dead and gone. Many are apparently destroyed at times, but in later years they reappear. Those that have been lingering in forgotten corners suddenly rise up and become popular. It will be remembered that the traditional cock fighting at Easter, supposed to have been suppressed long ago, has been found popular within the past decade, not only in this country but in others as well.

To many, folklore may seem trivial and dull. Only a few people seem interested in a spectacle so full of surprise. Yet to the student of this lore it may become the
most attractive and serious of the sciences, showing the
development of all human institutions, from fairy tales to
democracy. In beholding it, he learns how he owes all things,
humanly speaking, to the people and to genius.1 This same
student can look back and see the long trodden way behind
him, the winding tracks through marsh and forest and over
turning sands. He sees the caves, the camps, the villages,
the towns where the race has tarried, strange places many
of them and strangely haunted. But the scarcely visible
tracks converge at last on the beaten ways, the ways to that
city whither mankind is wandering. Superstitions beliefs
play a large part in the development of such a folklore, and
it is with this part that the author will deal chiefly.

Folklore seeks to decipher the unwritten history of the
folk and the effect on it of heredity and environment. It is
the key to understanding and sympathy with the folk around
us. We find examples of belief in all the walks of life,
and we should have the same regard for them. The man about
town who turns his chair around three times, or walks around
his chair once to change his luck at cards, is superstitious
just the same as the fisherman who spits on his hook or into
the mouth of the first fish caught. It seems very odd to one

1. R. Wright, English Folklore (New York, Robert M.
who is not superstitious to see a man do either of the preceding acts, and yet there are many beliefs even more peculiar than the cases mentioned. Such beliefs form a science which studies the expression—in popular beliefs, institutions, practices, oral literature—of people in general, in every stage of barbarism and culture. It is at the base of all other sciences. Scientific medicine is the child of medical folklore, and still uses at the head of its prescription a sign which is probably in reality the astrological sign for Jupiter, as a written charm or an invocation of the protecting god.

A collection of superstitions, in so far as it has scholarly value, is a partial record of what men have thought and believed. It is, therefore, the hope of the writer that this collection may be in a real, though perhaps small, sense a contribution both to the history and psychology of the people of Grayson County. In Kentucky and elsewhere the folk superstitions are gradually passing away; many of them are already irrecoverably lost. For purposes of permanent record it would seem worth while to preserve in print all that can be saved from loss. The origin of all superstitions may probably be traced to the desire of mankind to propitiate fate, to avert evil, and to dispel the mystery of life and of the universe.² Primitive man, in his fear of

evils that he did not understand, sought to avoid disaster by any means that he could find. In his ignorance of logic he often accepted a coincidence as a cause. The reasons for the survival of superstition from a more primitive age into our own are that people are slow to surrender beliefs that they have inherited; that many of them are still ignorant and timorous; and that, in spite of the explanations of both science and religion, they continue to find life and the universe largely inexplicable. Such a coincidence as the one to be found in just mentioned leaves numerous proverbs referring to the weather outlook foretold by a red sunset or red sunrise. "When it is evening, ye say, 'It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.' And in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering.'" So spake Christ to the Pharisees and Sadducees, as is recorded in the sixteenth chapter of Matthew; and He used the common belief of His day as an illustration of the self-satisfying spirit which is content with the obvious and seeks not to discern the "signs of the times."³

This rule for weather holds true here just as in Palestine:

"Sky red in the morning
Is a traveler's sure warning;
Sky red at night
Is a traveler's delight."

The connection between the weather which usually follows
dawn or sunset is a statement of fact derived from long experience; the explanation could only be given
when the effects of atmospheric dust and moisture as filters of sunlight had been studied. Sunlight is white light; and
when we see the sun red, it is due to the fact that the blue
rays in the original beams have been dissipated by the inter-
vening air, or rather by the dust particles in the air and
the water droplets which surround them. A red sky in the
evening indicates that there are plenty of dust particles in
the air, and that water vapor is beginning to be condensed
upon them; but relatively few water droplets are being formed,
and it is unlikely that they will be increased sufficiently
to cause rain during the succeeding twenty-four hours. A
red sky in the morning shows, however, that the droplets
around the dust particles are being protected from becoming
smaller by a blanket of overlying moisture; otherwise they
would soon be driven into vapor again by the rising sun’s
rays. The conditions are, therefore, favorable to the growth
in size of droplets, and rain will probably fall during the
day.

The association of a red sky with weather thus admits
of complete physical explanation, but it is not at all
necessary that the reason should be forthcoming for every
fact. It is, however, desirable to distinguish between
accurate observation and traditional belief which asks for acceptance without inquiry into the evidence of its truth. Many superstitious beliefs are brought into existence without this evidence. The author will endeavor to point out several examples of such.

The methods of accurate observation and cautious interpretation demanded of scientific investigators do not readily lend themselves to attractive description, and the results require more mental concentration to understand than is usually demanded of a literary performance. A writer of romance can let his imagination have free play; but when natural occurrences enter into the story, they should be presented accurately, if the material is to be used rightly. Nothing is so easy as to be deceived by appearances, or to accept a belief without inquiry into its foundations; the scientific plea of asking for evidence, and of limiting statements to those for which good justification can be produced, is much more tiresome; yet it is the only way by which truth can be attained; and that, after all, is the highest aim.

Many of the beliefs found in this section of the country are found in various sections. Some of them have been brought in from surrounding counties and states. However, most of these superstitious ideas are original with the people of this county and have been handed down traditionally. They
are as strictly observed by those who believe them as any of their regular habits. Especially are those of weather indications and the planting of crops carefully followed.

It has been an immense joy to the writer of this collection to work in a field so full of interest. The pleasure has been increased by the excellent cooperation given on the part of the people of Grayson County. Without this cooperation it would have been utterly impossible for the task to be completed. As has already been mentioned, some people are more interested in the collection than others, and, naturally, these persons have made a greater contribution to the work than the ones who were less interested.

To mention every belief or superstitious saying that the writer has found in this county would make the compilation a much larger volume than is intended. Therefore, the treatment is arranged by a special grouping of the most frequently mentioned topics of superstitious discussion. The present book will have achieved all its aims if some readers are induced to aid in the great enterprise of recording what remains of the heritage of our folk from the past and what is being created by them for the future.

It will be appreciated that it is impossible to cite the authorities for individual items. Many contributors have asked the author to make no individual references; it
has been possible to obtain many of the beliefs only under
the assurance that no personal reference would be made.
For this reason, the beliefs have been mentioned as being
found in certain "sections", and, even then, no section has
been specifically designated.

This volume has been compiled from sources that are,
generally speaking, not books, but individuals, newspapers,
and advertisements. Naturally, the chief source has been
oral information, for which the writer is deeply grateful.
Various teachers and students throughout the county have
taken an active part in making this collection. Their
contributions have been highly appreciated.

It is to be understood that all superstitions are not
known to every individual. In many cases the writer found
only one individual familiar with a belief. For this reason,
at least, three or four hundred beliefs have not been placed
in the lists. No belief has been used which was not
familiar to two or more persons. Any reader who is interested
in odd customs and beliefs can add considerably to the
number given herein. He will also find many mentioned with
which he is unfamiliar.

Although this volume deals with a subject that is
advanced in age, it is, at the same time, of modern interest.
It is true that these oddities are more fully current in
the rural districts than in the towns and cities. Certainly
life changes in the former less rapidly than in the latter,
but we are not without them in our largest towns and cities
of the state and nation. Perhaps the reader has been
handed a card which reads as follows: "Learn how to be suc-
cessful in love, financial affairs, society, etc. (I am
the seventh child), Signed..." One
of the most widely known newspapers in the state recently
carried an article based upon the superstitious person's
buying motor tags. Some desired the numbers to correspond,
as 272-272. Some wanted a number that was exactly divisible
by seven (note that the given example meets both require-
ments). Therefore, superstitions are not dead items. It is
to be hoped that the reader will make some note of his
recollections, for our folklore of the past lies chiefly in
the memories of the aged, and much of it will be lost as they
slip daily from our ranks.

The topics of folklore are no less precious, but much
more perishable, than the fragments of pottery and stone upon
which the story of civilization has been based. It may be
repeated that the matters passed in review are the ones
most widely known in the county; however, they are not all
found. The reader can do much to help supply the missing
links to this unending chain.
CHAPTER I
Weather Signs

Along with many of the superstitions mentioned under the main headings there will be certain explanations given. It has been possible for the author to trace back many of the beliefs to their origin. One thing of immense interest in so doing has been to find that many of exactly the same sayings have been regarded differently in one section of the county from what they are in another section.

Many of the weather signs given below are based on logical causes. They are included with the weather superstitions because they are all folk signs and because no distinction is felt by the superstitious between the logical signs and the superstitions.

I. Rain

1. "Evening red and morning gray
Sends the traveler on his way,
But evening gray and morning red
Brings down rain upon his head."4

2. If a cock crow in the early part of the night, there will be falling weather before morning.

3. The cry of a raincrow is a sure sign of rain.

4See pp. iv and v. in the introduction, for a similar sign; also for an explanation of it.
4. The singing of birds and hens during a rain is an indication of approaching fair weather.

5. If a bob-white says "Bob-white" only and does not say "Poor Bob-white," we may expect rain very soon.\(^5\)

6. If we hear the call of partridges in the late forenoon, there will be rain before that time the following day.

7. Rain may be expected if a cat is seen washing its face around the ears.

8. If cats play with their tails, it is a sign of bad weather.

9. A group of women seen going to market is a sign of rain.

10. If you see a bluebird today, there will be a fair day tomorrow.

11. If you take the last piece of bread on the plate by accident, you may be sure of rain.

The same incident, in another section of the county, denotes that the one taking the bread will be an old maid or an old bachelor.

12. When a cat is observed running about the house, climbing posts, etc., expect high wind followed by rain.

13. If it rains before seven, it will cease before eleven.

14. When the rain makes large bubbles on the ground, there will be rain on the following day.

15. If it rains while the sun is shining, it will rain the next day.\(^\_\)

16. If it rains on Monday, it will rain at least three days during the week.

17. There will be rain soon when the carpet on the floor becomes damp.

\(^5\)Daniel L. and Lucy B. Thomas, op. cit., p. 182. The belief stated in the above-mentioned book is not worded the same as is used herein. The author chose to use the one found in his own locality. The meaning is just the same.
18. Unusual activity and squealing of pigs are signs of falling weather.

19. If a calf is seen playing, it is a sign of falling weather before morning.

20. If candy will not get hard, it is a sign of rain.

21. If clothes do not dry readily, it will rain soon.
   This condition is caused by relative humidity.

22. If a cat sleeps before the fire with its nose turned up, it will rain soon.

23. To see a chicken lying on its side is an indication of rain.

24. When chickens fly upon some perch and pick their feathers, it is a sign that the rain is over.

25. If chickens run or fly to the shelter during a rain, there will be only a shower.

26. If chickens do not seek shelter, it will rain several hours, perhaps all day.

27. If wind comes down the chimney, there will be a change of weather.

28. If a rooster crows more than ten times, there will be bad weather.

29. "When the wind is from the south, The rain is in its mouth."

30. There will be fair weather if the clouds have a golden appearance.

31. Three cloudy mornings in succession mean that there will be rain on the third day.

32. Cobwebs on the grass are a sign of rain.

33. Cobwebs flying through the air are a sign of fair weather.

34. The withering of corn blades indicates rain.

35. Rheumatic pains are a sign of rain.
36. Itching corns are a sign of rain.
37. If crawfishes do not throw up their usual mounds, there will be a wet summer.
38. The casing of a crow indicates fair weather throughout the rest of the day.
39. A rain on the first day of the month is an indication of fifteen rains during the month. If the month coaxes in on Monday and it rains, there will be rain on each Monday of the entire month.
40. It never rains at night in July.
41. If it rains on the Fourth of July, there will be no grapes during that year.
42. If it rains on the last day of April, there will be rain for fifteen successive days.
43. If it rains between the first and the fourth of July, it will rain for forty days.
44. If it rains on the sixth of June, there will be no mast.
45. If it rains at any time during the first week of June, there will be no grapes.
46. There will be no blackberries if it rains during the first two days of June.
47. If the weather is cloudy on Monday, it will be cloudy three days during the week.
48. If the leaves on a tree turn up, it will rain before the week is out.
49. If the sun shines on Monday, it will shine every day during the week.
50. If it rains on Sunday, there will be only one fair day during the entire week.
51. If the sun sets behind a cloud on Wednesday night, it will rain before Sunday.
52. If the sun sets behind a cloud on Thursday night, it will rain within forty-eight hours.
53. The sun always shines brightly at some time on Friday or Saturday.
54. If the sunset is clear on Friday, it will rain on Sunday.
55. If the clouds open before seven and then close again, there will be rain before Tuesday.
56. When the moon sets clear on Friday, there will be rain before Tuesday.
57. "A ring around the moon, the rain comes soon."
58. "A ring around the sun, the rain comes none."
59. If the sun sets behind a cloud on Friday night, it will rain before Tuesday.
60. "Rainbow at morning, sailors take warning."
61. "Rainbow at night, sailors' delight."
62. "If at morn the sky be red, it bids the traveler stay in bed."
63. "Blessed are the dead the rain falls on."
64. If the sun sets clear, there will be fair weather for the next three days; if cloudy, it will rain within the next three days.
65. If it clears off at night, it will rain within the next two days.
66. If there is dew on the grass at night, there will be fair weather during the following day.
67. When fish jump above the top of the water, we may expect rain within forty-eight hours.
68. If there is no dew at night, there will be bad weather soon.
69. "If the dew is on the grass, rain will never come to pass."
70. When a dog chews grass, there will be rain.
71. If ducks fly high, there will be clear weather.
72. If ducks fly low, there will be falling weather.
73. If your feet hurt, it will rain.
74. When a turtle-dove cuck, there will be rain.
75. When quite clear, we may be sure of rain or winter
    has set soon.
76. If a fog rises early in the morning, it will rain.
77. If the fog lifts late, the day will be clear.
78. If the fog goes up, there will be falling weather
79. If the fog comes down, there will be fair weather.
80. A white frost is a sign of rain.
81. If frogs croak in the daytime, it will soon rain.
82. If a tree toad croaks just after a rain, there will
    be more rain before long.
83. When the breastbone of a goose is white, we may
    expect warm, clear weather.

The goose, since the time the sacred goose saved

home, has been a bird of dependability. It is used for

many weather signs.
84. If geese flap their wings when they are on the water,
    rain will follow within forty-eight hours.
85. When your hair curls, you may look out for rain.
86. When guineas cry in the afternoon, rain will follow
    immediately.
87. If a grasshopper is seen dancing, there will be rain
    within the next two days.
88. If a lamp flickers continually, there will be rain.
89. Lightning in the north is a sign of rain within twenty-
    four hours.
90. It will not rain as long as there is lightning in the
    north.
91. Lightning in the northwest is a sign of rain within
    forty-eight hours.
92. If lightning is seen in the east, dry weather is in
    prospect.
93. Lightning in the south is a sign of dry weather.

94. If locusts make a great deal of noise, dry weather will follow.

95. Mice squeaking loudly at night predict rain.

96. When the new moon lies with the horns or points extending upward, we may expect dry weather, for the moon will hold water.

Some people believe that such a moon has the opposite effect, and that wet weather is the result.

97. If the ring around the moon is near the moon, rain is near; if far from it, rain is farther away.

98. When the new moon stands on end, the weather will be dry.

Others claim it will be wet, for the moon is in position to pour out its water.

99. A ring around the moon with a star in it indicates one day of fair weather before the rain.

100. The number of stars in the ring around the moon equals the number of days before there will be rain.

101. If the moon changes in the morning, there will be rain.

102. If the moon changes in the afternoon or evening, there will not be rain.

103. The crying of a peacock is a sign of rain.

104. The hooting of owls indicates a change of weather.

105. The hooting of a "creek" owl indicates an approaching rain.

106. If a group of negroes passes by, it will rain.

107. A rainbow in the west is a sign of wet weather.

108. Sweating rocks are a sign of rain.

109. A rainbow in the west is a sign of wet weather; and if it be in the east, it is a sign of dry weather.
110. If you see a rainbow, there will be no more rain for that day.

111. If a blacksnake is killed and hung on the fence, rain will follow within forty-eight hours.

112. If a snake turns bottom side up to the sun, it will rain in a very short time.

113. When a redbird says, "Wet, Wet," you may look for a heavy rain to follow.

114. If smoke goes straight, there will be clear weather for the ensuing two days.

115. If smoke stays close to the ground, there will be high winds and generally bad weather.

116. If the smoke from a train is white and cloudlike, there will be fair weather.

117. When smoke from a camp fire goes down stream, we may expect rain within twenty-four hours; if it goes up or up stream, we may expect fair weather for the following twenty-four hours.

118. If stars are thick, there will be rain soon.

119. If there are few stars in the sky, rain may be expected in a few days.

120. If snow melts from the trees, the snow will leave the ground in a rain.

121. If a whirlwind goes down stream, there will be rain soon.

122. Rain may be expected for five days in succession after an eclipse of the sun.

123. A whirlwind going east is a sign of rain.

124. Sweating glass is a sign of rain.

This has a natural explanation: The air has a supply of moisture in it. When warm air comes in contact with cold, part of this moisture is released and condenses in water droplets outside the glass, thus forming the appearance of sweat. Since there is a supply of moisture in the air,
it is quite natural that rain may follow.

125. Foam on the water is a sign of rain.

126. The carrying of an umbrella scares the rain away.

127. If you see the white on leaves when the wind is blowing, there will be rain.

128. When you hear whistling among trees on a hillside, you may expect rain within one day.

129. If rain drops cling to twigs, leaves, etc., there will be rain within twenty-four hours.

130. Whirlwinds of dust are a sign of dry weather.

131. If it begins raining while the wind is blowing from the east, there will be rain every day for seven days.

132. If you kill a spider on a rainy day, it will rain on the following day.

133. When the cry of the whippoorwill is clear and loud, we may expect fair weather.

134. When turkeys are seen dancing (jumping up and down), we may look out for rain within forty-eight hours.

135. If smoke goes down in the valley, you may expect rain soon.

136. If you kick up the rug or stumble on it several times, rain is likely to follow.

137. If it has not been raining for a day and is cloudy, and if a patch of sky large enough to make a man and a pair of trousers is seen before eleven o'clock, it will not rain during the day.

138. A jaybird's call is a sure sign of rain.
II. Snow and Frost

1. If snowbirds are seen in a group on the ground, it is an indication of snow.

2. Yellow butterflies in the fall give an indication of a frost within ten days that will change the leaves to the color of the butterflies.

3. A flock of wild geese or wild ducks flying south is a sure indication of cold weather.

4. If it thunders in February, it will frost in May.

5. If a spring bird calls late in the winter, while the weather is still cold, there will be colder weather or more snow.

6. If it is foggy in January, it will be frosty in May and on the same days of the month.

7. If it snows on the first day of March, there will be snow for thirty days.

8. Mists in March mean frosts in May.

9. As many times as it rains in August there will be snows during the winter.

10. There will be as many snows during the winter as there are foggy mornings in August.

11. If it thunders at midnight, the frogs will soon look through ice windows.

12. Butterflies in the fall are a sign of cold weather immediately.

13. The crackling of the fire with a fluffy sound as if snow were falling into it indicates the coming of snow.

14. When fire spits, there will be snow.

15. If firelight is seen reflected on the woodwork in a building, cold weather is following.

16. If a dog howls toward the moon, you may expect snow.

17. The itching of frost-bitten feet indicates snow or rain.

18. If a frost hangs on the trees late in the morning, it
is a sign of snow.

19. When rain or mist collects in droplets on trees, fences, etc., colder weather may be expected.

20. If we have three white frosts in succession, there will be rain on the fourth day.

21. Ninety days, or three months, after the first katydid is heard there will be frost.

22. No frost will fall when a full moon is shining.

23. If there are two rings around a full moon, it will snow within forty-eight hours.

24. If snow is blown off the trees, there will be another snow covering the present one.

25. Snow left unmelted in the fence corner brings another snow.

This snow is just lying on waiting for another.

26. If the sun shines while it is snowing, there will be snow on the following day.

27. If snow sticks to the sides of trees and houses, there will be another snow in forty-eight hours.

III. Winter

1. If a cat sits with its back toward the fire, cold weather may be expected.

2. When the inside of a chicken gizzard comes out easily, a light winter is following.

3. When the chicken gizzard sticks, the winter following will be hard.

4. The groundhog comes out of his den on February 2. If he sees his shadow, he goes back into the den, and we have six more weeks of winter weather. If he does not see his shadow, spring is closely following.

5. A bad winter usually follows a pretty summer.

6. The first thunder in spring denotes the breaking of winter.
7. The number of days from the first snow until Christmas designates the number of snows that will fall during the year.

8. If we have a few cool days in May, we think of it as being blackberry winter.

9. If the weather is cool when dogwood blooms, the term "dogwood winter" is used for the cool period.

10. If it thunders in December, there will be cold weather.

11. If the fire sighs, there will be very cold weather.

12. When a turtle-dove calls in the spring, winter is broken.

13. If a flower or a fruit tree which should bloom or bear but once a year blooms or bears twice in a season, this is a warning of an extremely bad winter.

14. In winter if the fowls seek a higher place to roost, there will be colder weather before morning.

15. If wild geese fly low in the winter when they go south, the winter will be mild.

16. If wild geese fly high when they go south, the winter will be severe.

17. If a hog's liver points toward the head with the little end, the first part of the winter will be warm and the latter part cold.

18. If the hog's liver points toward the head with the large end, the early part of winter will be cold and the late part of it will be warm.

19. When hogs are killed in the winter, if the large end of the hog's spleen is behind, the winter weather is practically over. If the large end is in front, the hardest part is yet to come.

20. A heavy wild grape crop is followed by a hard winter.

21. If a hornet builds his nest low, expect cold winter.

22. An over supply of wild fruits in the fall is a sign of an extremely cold winter.

23. If there is much mistletoe in the fall, look out for a severe winter.
24. When peacocks cry a great deal during the winter, the cold weather is over.

25. The growing of moss on the south side of trees is a sign of a cold winter following. Moss generally grows on the north side of trees and is often used by travelers as a means of locating themselves when confused as to direction.

26. When snipes cry, winter is about over.

27. When squirrel hoards are large, a cold winter may be expected.

28. When trees have heavy foliage, we may expect the winter to be a severe one.

29. When sycamore trees are white and smooth in the fall, a mild winter may be expected.

30. If bark grows thick on the north side of a tree, there will be a cold winter.

IV. Miscellaneous

1. Friday is either the fairest or foulest day of the week.

2. March is an irregular month. If it comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb; if it comes in like a lamb, it will go out like a lion.

3. The coming of the robin is a good sign of spring.

4. When the martin comes, spring is not long off.

5. The first three days of any season determine the weather for that season.

Some sections have a different number of days. Some have the first day; some have the first week.

6. The first twelve days of January foretell the weather for the twelve months, respectively.

7. The weather of the first three days in December deter-
mines the weather for December, January, and February.

This belief is held by persons over middle ago for the
most part. It bears a slight similarity to some of the once
mentioned, but it is not so widely known as the others.
8. The first thunder in spring awakens the snakes.
9. A cold winter is followed by a hot summer.
10. When there is thunder in the winter time, we may look
out for extremely cold weather.
11. A wind from the south on the first day of January
indicates a southerly wind every day during the month.
12. Months often exchange weather, according to the belief
of some. Cold days in February will be warm days in
March, and the warm days in February will be cold days
in March.
13. Whatever way the wind blows on Easter Sunday, it will
blow that way for six weeks.
14. If there is enough rain on Easter Sunday to wet one
in shirt sleeves, there will be a good crop year.
15. The sun never shines on Good Friday.
16. If the wind blows a certain way on Good Friday, it
will blow that way for forty days.
17. If Easter comes early, we have an early spring.
18. When there is a late Easter, there is a late spring.
19. People may remove their winter clothes, and children
may go bare-footed, on the first of May without fear
of contracting cold.
20. If it is dry through the month of June, it is a good
sign of a large corn crop.
21. When it is warm enough for dogwood to bloom, the
fish will bite.
22. We can always expect at least two big rises of streams
in June.
23. When the wind is high, it will blow hardest about five o'clock—night and morning.

24. The weather Friday at noon determines the weather for the following Sunday.

25. If you dream of eating something, there will be bad weather on the following day.

26. All weather signs fail in time of drought or in time of heavy rain.

27. Frogs freeze up at least three times before spring comes to stay.

28. If the breastbone of a goose is dark, there will be cold weather.

29. If the breastbone of a goose is mottled, the weather will be changeable.

30. The weather goose is no good as a weather forecaster after the first of December, nor is he regarded as one suitable for the rest of the flock after that time. For this reason, he is often killed or sold.

People who believe in the goose as a weather prophet have a certain goose which is known as the weather bird. It seems that there is a required time for his birth and death. The interesting fact is that in one section he must be hatched in the first week of June; in another, on the first day of June; and in another, any time during the month of June.

31. If a hog looks very long toward the north, cold weather is coming from that direction.

32. There will be cold weather a short time after hogs begin to build their beds.

33. When an insect is seen carrying material for its bed, we may expect cold weather at once.

34. If locust blooms are heavy, a cool summer follows.

35. If rain gets thick and heavy, cold weather is the result.

36. A ring around the moon is a sign of cold weather.

37. When the moon hangs low in the south, there will be mild weather.
38. If a mule tramps toward the north, cold weather may be expected.

39. If a rainbow heads over a house, there will be a death in that house before the year is out.

40. When you see snow birds flying along a rail fence, you may expect the weather to be much colder within the next twenty-four hours.

41. Bad weather may be expected when a squirrel is seen gathering nuts.

42. When telephone wires ring, a change of weather may be expected. If in the winter time, cold weather may be the result.

43. If the wind is in the south on the first day of the year, it will not be out of the south forty-eight hours within forty-eight days.

44. Stretch a yarn string over beans and other young plants in the early spring to protect them from frost. The frost will collect on the yarn, and the plants will receive no injury.

45. If the sun looks red like blood at the sunset of a rainy day, a sudden death will soon take place.

46. If it thunders heavily while a hen is sitting, it will kill the chickens.

47. Music during a thunderstorm is very dangerous.

48. If you sit on the feather bed during an electrical storm, the lightning will not strike you.

49. One should not burn the wood from a tree which has been struck by lightning. This may cause the house in which it is burned to be struck by lightning or burned.

50. If the east wind blows for three days in the spring, there will be no acorns, beechnuts, hickory nuts, and the like during that year.

51. If the lightning strikes twice in the same place, there is mineral in the ground there near the surface.

52. Any noise during a thunderstorm is dangerous.

53. The hooting of owls indicates a change of weather.
CHAPTER II
Good and Bad Luck Signs

We have heard many of these signs and omens for many years. They have been handed down throughout the ages. Many of the luck signs have as their basis certain days of the week on which things are to be performed. The writer has found luck signs, centered around certain days of the week and certain times of the year, to be the outstanding subject dealing with luck. Some of these ideas have had local development. They may fit very closely to others in vogue, yet they have sprung from incidents in real life; they are believed by persons who have had no knowledge of the close parallels to them. For this reason the author thinks it in place to give the people with whom he is dealing due credit for them.

I. Lucky and Unlucky Days
1. The day on which one is born is an old and widely believed superstition.

"Monday's child is fair of face.
Tuesday's child is full of grace.
Wednesday's child is loving and giving.
Thursday's child must work for a living.
Friday's child is full of woe.
Saturday's child has far to go."
But the child that is born on the Sabbath Day
Is bouncy and bonny and good and gay."

2. You will have good luck if you are born on Sunday.
3. Wednesday is a lucky day for collecting money.
4. Wednesday is the luckiest day of the week for a wedding.
5. It brings bad luck to be born on Saturday.

One will have to work hard to earn his living.

6. Friday is an unlucky day to go fishing.
7. Thursday is the best day for business transactions.
8. A white New Christmas and a white Old Christmas are signs of a good fruit year.

New Christmas is our regular Christmas; Old Christmas
is twelve days after New.

9. The fourteenth of any month is a lucky day on which
to ask for things. You will be able to get anything
you ask for on this day.

10. It is bad luck to plant crops on the first three days
of July. They will be barren.

II. Lucky and Unlucky Acts

1. If you work on Sunday, you will be sick on Monday.
2. It brings good luck to move on Monday, Tuesday, or
Wednesday.
3. If one moves on Sunday, he may expect good luck through-
out the year.
4. It brings bad luck to move too often. Three moves are
as bad as a fire.
5. If you burn brush on Sunday, your body will burn all
the time after you die.
6. It brings good luck to wear a new dress on Sunday.
7. It brings bad luck to fish on Sunday.
8. If you cut your nails on Sunday, you will be ruled by
the devil all the week.
9. Cutting the nails on Monday brings good luck.

10. If you cut your nails on Monday before breakfast, you will receive a present before the week is out.

11. It brings bad luck to cut the nails on Thursday.

12. It brings good luck to cut the toe nails on Friday. One will never have the tooth ache if he does this.

13. It is bad luck to sew on Sunday. Every time you take a stitch, the devilbacks his ears.

14. It brings good luck to start on a journey on Sunday.

15. If you are in a bad humor on Monday, you will be in a bad humor all the week.

16. If you eat in a strange house on Monday, your whole week will be unlucky.

17. It is bad luck to take out ashes on Sunday.

18. It brings good luck to begin a job on Monday.

19. Set the first hen on Monday for good luck.

20. It brings bad luck to move on Friday or Saturday.

21. Ashes should not be emptied out on Friday afternoon.

22. A lover will bring bad luck to himself by kissing his girl on Friday.

23. One should not pay his debts on Friday or Saturday.

24. If a woman visits you on the first day of the year, someone will come every day in the year.

25. It causes bad luck to begin building a house on Saturday.

26. Cooks should do no cake-baking on Saturday.

27. The thought of a day's being Saturday when it is not brings news of the death of a very good friend of yours.

28. What you do on the first day of the year indicates the character of your actions throughout the entire year.
29. If a man enters your house before a woman on New Year's Day, you will have good luck all year.
30. It brings bad luck to have a red-haired person visit you first on New Year's Day.
31. A negro visitor on the first day of the year brings bad luck.
32. A dark-haired man as your first visitor on New Year's Day brings the bad luck.
33. If you break a valuable on the first day of the year, you will have bad luck all through the year.
34. It is bad luck to move in March.
35. If a person lives through March, he will live all the year.
36. It brings bad luck to have the hair cut in March.
37. It is good luck to cook white beans on the first day of the year.

One who does this will have money all the year.

38. If you dip your head under water on January 1, you will not be ill during the year.
39. If the hunter who has caught his first skunk during the season will rub it down his back three times, he will not have a cold during the winter.

This seems to be original in the northern section of Grayson County. Several hunters in this section were of the same belief about it, and the author was unsuccessful in finding it mentioned in any other part.

40. If one will go swimming on the first morning of May before the sun is up, he will be free from all contagious diseases that year.
41. It brings bad luck to look into a well on May 1. If one sees his reflection, a member of the family will die before the next May.
42. Unless you wear something new on Easter Sunday, you will be unlucky all the year.
43. If you wash your hair in the first rain of May, it will be free from lice all year.
44. Horses that have lice on them should be out in the May showers, for they will wash off the lice.
45. It is bad luck to pull a four-leaf clover in May.
46. If you have a woman as a guest on the morning of May 1, all your chickens of that year will be hens; if a man is your first visitor, all the chickens will be roosters.
47. It is dangerous to take off winter clothing before May 1.
48. If you set hens in June with the eggs laid in June, the chickens will die.
49. If you hack the bark of a tree on an Ember Day, it will die.
50. It brings bad luck to leave the Christmas decoration up after the beginning of the New Year.
51. It is bad luck to kill a fly on Christmas.
52. It is bad luck to remove ashes from a fireplace during any part of the Christmas season.
53. You will have good luck if you are the first to greet your friend with "Merry Christmas" or "Happy New Year."
54. If you cut your foot while swimming during the first ten days of August, you will have blood poisoning.

This is caused by certain changes in the water during dog days. Any scratch or broken skin tissue is supposed to become infected by water during dog days.

55. At midnight on Christmas Day all the animals get down on their knees to pray (because Christ was born in the manger.). It is bad luck to disturb the animals at this time.
56. It is bad luck to turn water into the cistern during any month which has no "r" in the spelling.

The water will become contaminated and unfit for use.
57. You should not marry a person who is born in the same month with you. It brings bad luck to both bride and bridegroom.

58. If you let your birthday pass without knowing it, you will die before your next birthday.

59. It is bad luck to be put under the bed on your birthday, according to the belief of some people in this county; however, some believe it brings good luck, and that one should have this happen on his birthday.

60. At the first of the month say "Rabbits," and you will have good luck through the month.

61. It causes bad luck to come to a place in the road where someone has stepped at right angles to the way you are going.

62. It brings bad luck not to plant seed after the soil has been prepared.

63. It brings good luck to meet the same person two or three times in the same place on the same day not by appointment.

64. It is bad luck to thank the giver of seeds; they will not grow.

65. To carry money in two different pockets is bad luck. You may lose some.

66. It causes bad luck to run across a bridge.

67. In planting crops, it is bad luck to leave a row unfinished.

68. It is bad luck to eat celery.

69. It is good luck to strike your hoe together with someone else's while you are hoeing in the garden. You will hoe in the same place with the same person next year.

70. If two men at work on rows strike hoes together, one will die before the year is out.

71. It brings good luck to carry three cents.

72. It is very unlucky to see the will-o-the-wisp while walking at night. If you wish to avoid its effect, you must stop, turn around, turn your coat wrong side out, and wear it that way.
73. If you put the last nickel you own into the church offering, you will be lucky. You will receive a check before the week is out.

74. If you find a piece of money, you must keep it, for it will bring more money to the possessor.

75. If a leaf sticks on your clothes while you are picking beans, it is a sign of good luck. You will receive good news.

76. If while walking you pick up all the burnt matches you see, you will find money.

77. It brings good luck to plant beans on Good Friday.

78. When making a journey, if you meet a person in the same place on and from the journey, you will have good luck.

79. It is good luck to eat carrots. They make one beautiful.

80. When you are going anywhere, it causes bad luck to meet a woman.

81. It is good luck to plant beans when apple trees bloom.

82. It is bad luck for butter beans to grow downward and send roots upward. The planter will die. (At some time, of course, but the limit of his lifetime was not estimated)

83. If you swallow a four-leaf clover whole, you will get what you want to marry.

84. It brings good luck to wear a coin around your neck.

85. To walk on the opposite side of a post from a companion is bad luck. It will cause a quarrel with him. Spit on the post to avoid it.

86. It is bad luck to burn the cole of your seed corn.

87. The finding of a piece of silver brings good luck.

88. If the first corn-silk of the season that you see is white, you will go to a funeral soon.

89. It brings good luck to borrow money from a woman.

90. It is good luck to plant cucumbers on the Fourth of July.
91. It is bad luck for a third person to come between
two others while they are walking. It will cause a
quarrel. To avoid this, both persons should speak
to the third, whether they are acquainted or not.

92. It causes bad luck to pass between two women. To
avert the penalty say, "Bread and butter."

93. It is good luck to blow all the seeds off a dande-
lion ball in two breaths. You will get a new dress.

94. It causes good luck to pass between two men.

95. It is bad luck to burn grape vines.

96. It is bad luck to pass a wagonload of hay unless
you seize a handful of it.

97. If you say, "Load of hay, load of hay, take my wish
and go away," you will have good luck.

98. To follow a hay wagon out of sight with your gaze
will bring good luck; better luck if nothing comes
between.

99. If a nettle points toward you, pluck it. It means
good luck.

100. It causes bad luck to cross a street anywhere except
at a crossing.

101. To forget something and have to go back after it
causes bad luck. To avert the penalty, go back
three times.

102. It brings bad luck to plant parsley; you plant it
for sorrow.

103. It is bad luck to start anywhere and go back three
times. You will avoid the danger by counting ten.

104. To plant potatoes on dark nights is bad luck. Mole
will eat them.

105. Avert the ill luck which comes from turning back after
starting by spitting over your left shoulder.

106. It is bad luck to postpone a trip. You will never
take it.

107. It is bad luck to start anywhere with wet clothes
in your trunk.
108. When you drop a nickel, if it sticks up in the floor, you will have good luck the rest of that day.

109. It is bad luck to let a rose bloom in the house. A death will follow.

110. It is unlucky to carry dimes.

111. It is bad luck for the dropper of tobacco plants to get more than one row ahead of the setter.

112. If you count the fruit on a tree before it is ripe, it will fall off.

113. It causes bad luck to break a dogwood switch.

114. To burn cedar brings bad luck.

115. One can avert disaster, especially that of boasting, by knocking on wood.

116. You will have good luck if you plant a cedar in your yard and it lives.

117. If you set a pine tree in your yard, you will die as soon as the lower limbs grow to the length of your coffin.

Opinions differ as to the tree, whether it is pine or cedar. Some maintain that cedar has the same effect.

118. It is unlucky to boom a log upon a log-wagon with a pole of dogwood.

119. It is bad luck to plant a weeping willow tree. The planter will die in a short while after the tree starts to grow.

120. One will have good luck if he can remove the peeling from a pear or apple without breaking it. The peeling must be thrown backwards over the head.

121. It is bad luck to burn walnut or sassafras wood.

122. It is bad luck to watch a person out of sight. You will never see him alive again.

123. To count the cars of a passenger train is bad luck. It is a sign of death.

124. It is bad luck to whistle in a mine.
125. To put a stamp on a letter bottom side upwards means that you will not receive an answer to it.

126. If you receive a letter with the stamp upside down, your best friend will leave you.

127. It is bad luck to put a one-cent stamp on a letter accidentally.

128. It is bad luck for a woman to come into a coal mine. An accident will befall the miners.

129. If you write on a piece of pie the initials of a person from whom you wish a letter and then eat the pie, you will receive a letter from your future husband or wife.

130. It is good luck to find an unopened letter in the street. One will soon have good news.

131. It is good luck to meet a red-haired girl coming up the street.

132. It is bad luck to meet an old red-haired man.

133. It is bad luck to see a yellow box-car.

134. It is bad luck to meet a red-haired negro.

135. It is bad luck for the last of three people to use a lighted match while smoking.

136. The third person who uses a towel will have bad luck.

137. If you find the number thirteen turned toward you, you may expect bad luck before the end of the day.

138. If you count ninety-nine stars without bowing your head, you will drop dead.

139. If you count one hundred stars without looking down, you will cause a death in the family, most often the father or mother.

140. If you stick a knife into the ground eight times, you will be successful in anything you attempt during that day.

141. If you cross bats in playing ball, your luck will change.
142. It is bad luck for a baseball player to drop a bat between home plate and the catcher.
143. If the batter breaks his bat, a batting slump may be expected.
144. It is bad luck to change bats after the second strike.
145. It is bad luck for the runner to step over his bat.
146. Place a black piece of cloth in the dugout of the opposing team, and it will bring good luck to your team.
147. It is exceptionally bad luck to be put out on third base.
148. It is good luck to spit on the end of the bat before batting.
149. It is good luck to pass a wagon loaded with hay as you go to a baseball game. In order to receive this reward, one should tip his hat to the driver.
150. The ball team should not have its picture made before the game of that day has been finished.
151. Do not change lockers in any type of athletics, for it will be sure to bring bad luck to the player who does so.
152. If the pitcher finds a toad in the outfield before the game starts, it is a sure sign of victory.
153. It brings bad luck for the pitcher to strike out the first batter.
154. It is bad luck for the batter to try to watch the catcher's signal.
155. The home team should not permit the visiting team to use its bench. It will bring bad luck to the batters.
156. If a baseball player sees a cross-eyed woman in the grandstand, he will not get a hit during the game.
157. One is lucky to fish when dogwood is in bloom.
158. It is unlucky to play a game of any kind in a clean uniform.

159. It is a good-luck sign when fishing to throw on the shore a leaf that has been found in the stream of water.

160. It is a good-luck sign for the fisherman to chew mint and spit a part of it into the mouth of the fish he catches first.

This sign was originated among the fishermen of Rough River, which is in close proximity to the writer.

161. It is good luck to spit on the bait while fishing.

162. If you stick your hand on the fish's fin so that the blood comes, you will catch nothing more.

163. It causes bad luck to cross lines while fishing.

164. To change hooks, lines, poles, or floaters while fishing brings bad luck.

165. In some sections of the county it is considered good luck to shoot the gun once before you leave the yard.

166. If you carry a fishing pole through the house, you will be unlucky.

167. It is bad luck for the hunter to turn back after he has once entered his hunting grounds.

168. It is bad luck to lend your gun during the hunting season. If you have had bad luck during the early part of the season, it is advisable to lend the gun. In other words, to lend a gun during the hunting season brings a change of luck.

169. If a hunter wishes to change his luck for the day, he should turn the back of his hat to the front and change the load in his gun.

170. If two hunters cross different panels of fence, bad luck will follow.

171. If a hunter drops his gun immediately before starting, he should not go on that trip, for a serious accident may follow.
172. It is lucky to spit on one's hands before a fight.

173. If you drop a number of cards during the game, you will lose that number of games.

174. It is good luck to turn up your trouser leg when you are losing at cards.

175. To sit on your cap while playing cards brings good luck.

176. It brings good luck to deal from a deck from which you were one of the number to cut for a deal.

177. It is good luck to turn the back of your chair to the table and sit astride if you are a loser at the game.

178. You may change your luck by sitting on your handkerchief while playing at cards.

179. Reverse the direction of dealing when playing cards for a change in luck.

180. It brings good luck to turn up your chair and spit on the bottom if you are losing.

181. To walk around the table three times is good luck in a card game.

182. It is bad luck to the player who plays cards across the grain of the table.

183. You can change your luck at cards by changing something in your pockets.

184. It brings bad luck to play cards close to where a murder has been committed.

185. The man who kisses a card good-bye will have good luck.

186. A player should always pick up his cards with his left hand.

This is regarded as good luck in some sections; in others a player would not use the left hand but is sure to use the right one.
197. It brings good luck to the card player to be lost to pick up the look at his cards.

198. One should not pick up his cards one at a time. Bad luck will follow in case he does.

199. It is always bad luck to fumble the deal.

200. One should not lend a betting opponent money, for it is bad luck to bet against one's own money.

201. It is ill luck to cut the deal of an opponent when you are winning; you will start losing.

202. If in picking up dice you drop one, you will lose, for you have lost your leader.

203. It is bad luck for a hunter to catch an injured animal and let it die in his hands.

204. It is bad luck to find a dead animal. This luck may be averted by spitting over the little finger in the direction in which the animal is lying.

205. It is extremely bad luck to kill a cat, especially to drown one. The cat will haunt one for life.

It seems that cats have always been used as omens. The author is able to offer a specific example dealing with them.

In Rough River (the boundary line between Grayson and Breckenridge Counties) there were some negroes drowned one night while the river was high. This happened at a place known as Davidson Ferry. Many people, upon approach to this place at night, held that they could hear heavy weights falling into the water. These objects would whistle as they hit the water. Just on the Breckenridge side stood an old house uninhabited. An inhabitant of Grayson, upon crossing the river immediately after the drowning, was much surprised
to find a batch of black cats crossing and recrossing his path until he reached the house. These cats were, seemingly, the same in every characteristic. The one thing most noticeable, as the story goes, is that their eyes were of a red, shining brightness. Each of them came close to the man, purring softly. Upon his reaching the house, all the cats mysteriously disappeared. The man went on his way, thinking about the matter, to be sure; but as other things entered his mind on the journey, he forgot the cats until he returned to the house on his homeward way. Again he was confronted by the same queer happening. The cats played to and fro across his path until he reached the bank of the river. Upon reaching this spot, he seized the boat oar and tried his best to strike one of them, but he was not successful in the attempt. Finally, they disappeared again, and the man proceeded home. In a few days the man went to bed with the fever; he was in bed for a long while, and he always maintained that the cats were a warning of the approaching misfortune.

196. If a black cat crosses your path, turn around three times to avert bad luck.

197. If a black cat takes up his abode at a house, the unmarried daughters will have a good chance to marry; but if a black cat is kept in the family, the daughters will never marry.

198. It is bad luck for the cat to get on the table.

199. It is bad luck to drive a cat away from your home.

200. If a cat is left in a room where there is a sick baby or a sleeping person, it may suck that person's breath.
201. There seems to be a difference of opinion as to moving a cat. Some think it is bad luck to move a cat from one dwelling house to another; others take great pride in doing so, for it is supposed to bring good luck.

202. If you see your reflection in a churn of milk, you will be baldheaded.

203. If a family move from one city to another and take a cow with them, it will bring bad luck to the family.

204. If you kill a dog, it is bad luck. His spirit will haunt you.

205. It is bad luck to step over a dog; he will not grow any more.

206. It is bad luck to sell a young dog, or kill an old one.

207. Hunters consider it good luck to pass their dog while it is attending to a call of nature. Some, however, maintain that such is a sign of bad luck.

208. It is bad luck to take down a horseshoe that has been hung up by some other person.

209. It is good luck to spit on a horseshoe; throw it away without watching where it goes.

210. If you find a horseshoe, spit through it and throw it over your left shoulder for good luck.

211. Count the number of holes in the horseshoe you find, and you will have that many years of good luck.

212. It is bad luck to pass a horseshoe without picking it up and hanging it up.

213. To find a horseshoe on a fence brings good luck.

214. It is bad luck to pick up a broken horseshoe.

215. It is good luck to change a horse's name after he has changed hands in the trade.

216. It is good luck to pass a drove of horses.

217. It is bad luck to take off the shoe from a dead horse.
218. If you count one hundred and fifty horses, you will find something valuable.

219. It causes bad luck to see a gray mule six times the same week.

220. If you find money in a mule's track, it will bring good luck.

221. If a rat cuts your clothes, it is bad luck to mend the garment yourself.

222. If the inmates of a rat-infested house will write the name of some person on a piece of paper, well greased with lard, and put it where the rats will get it, telling them where they will find a better larder, they will forsake this house and go to that mentioned in the paper.

223. It brings bad luck to catch two mice in one trap.

224. It is a sign of good luck if when you open a drawer a rat runs out.

225. The killing of a toad will bring bad luck. The cow may give bloody milk.

226. If you do not spit when you see a toad, you will have a wart.

227. If you break a bird's egg, you will have bad luck.

228. If a hen is set in the afternoon after the sun goes down, all the eggs will hatch.

229. It is considered good luck to pass a flock of geese.

230. To meet a white chicken on the way to a funeral is bad luck.

231. It is bad luck to kill a turtle-dove.

232. It is bad luck to imitate the hoot of an owl.

233. If you will turn the toe of your shoes to the wall, it will stop an owl from hooting.

234. It is bad luck to hear a peacock cry.

235. It brings bad luck to kill a raincrow.

236. It is bad luck to kill a robin.
237. It is bad luck to kill a bat, unless it is inside the house. If it flies into the house at night, someone will be missing before the next night unless the bat is killed or driven out.

238. It is bad luck to sell a bee hive. The bees will die.

239. To count bee hives is bad luck. The bees will all die.

240. Some people in this county believe in the age-old custom of "telling the bees" when the head of the house dies.

J. G. Whittier wrote the poem "Telling the Bees" just to fulfill the very old country custom.

"And the song she was singing ever since
In my ear sounds on —
Stay at home pretty bees, fly not hence!
Mistress Mary is dead and gone."

Perhaps this poem has caused people to remember the old custom, and in some sections of the county the beehives are draped in black as a warning that the head of the house is dead.

241. If a cricket is killed, the mate will come and cut the clothes of the killer.

242. To pull off the wings of a butterfly is bad luck.

243. It is bad luck to kill a daddy-long-legs.

244. If you kill a daddy-long-legs, your cows will not come home.

245. It is bad luck to kill a spring lizard. Your spring will go dry.

246. It brings bad luck to kill a lady bug.

247. It is bad luck to knock down a dirt-dauber's nest; you will break your dishes.

248. If you do not kill the first snake you see every year, you will not overcome your enemies.
249. It is bad luck to touch a rattlesnake skin.
250. It is bad luck to kill a dragon-fly.
251. It brings bad luck to kill a spider which comes down in front of you. Especially is this true at night.
252. It is bad luck to kill a black spider.
253. It causes good luck to go through a spider web.
This is carefully regarded by hunters.
254. It is good luck to kill a spider. Every time you kill a spider, you kill an enemy.
255. It is bad luck to keep egg shells. Witches sail the sea in them. To avert this, burn the shells.
256. It is bad luck for a dog to see himself in the mirror.
This sign has a simple explanation. The dog is a rather furious type of animal; and when he sees himself, he is ready to jump at his reflection, especially if he happens to be holding some food in his mouth. The billygoat has similar characteristics. Perhaps the reader recalls the story of the goat jumping through the large mirror of his owner, or the dog that was walking a log across a pool of water. The animal had a large piece of meat in his mouth. When he beheld his image in the clear water below, he jumped quickly into the water, losing his food, and found that there was no dog below him.
257. It brings bad luck to burn salt.
258. It is bad luck to thank the giver for a flower sprout. The plant will not live.
259. It is bad luck for a housewife to iron the tail of her husband’s shirt.
260. The first star you see at night, make a wish. If you do not look at it any more, your wish may come true.

261. It is bad luck to put on one shoe and tie it before the other one is put on.

262. It is bad luck to wear hose that do not match.

263. It is good luck to catch a snail by the horns on the first day of May and throw it over the left shoulder.

264. "To comb your hair after dark Will bring sorrow to your heart."

265. For a woman to stumble when she and her husband are entering their home for the first time will bring an unhappy married life.

266. It is bad luck to fail to turn the featherbed over when one is making up a bed.

267. It brings bad luck to one to turn over a spoon in one's mouth while eating.

268. It is bad luck for a bride
   "To change the name and not the initial letter,
   She changes for worse and not for better."

269. It is bad luck to ride a horse and carry a sassafras switch.

270. It brings good luck for a person to wear borrowed clothes.

271. When a young lady combs her hair and leaves dirt, hair, etc., in the comb, she may expect the person who removes the dirt from the comb to take possession of the former's lover.

272. If you break a needle in a quilt which you are quilting, you will not marry until the quilt is worn out.

273. It is bad luck to dress the face in the morning before the shoes are put on.

274. It always brings good luck to wear three rings on the forefinger.

275. It is good luck to count sixteen stars for seven nights straight. You will see the one you are to marry soon.
276. It is bad luck to sneeze on Sunday before breakfast. You will hear of a death before night.
277. It is bad luck to dream of a white horse; someone will die in a short time.
278. It is bad luck for a girl to give her boy friend a necktie.
279. It is good luck to sleep under a new quilt. If you make a wish the first time you sleep under it, it will come true.
280. It is bad luck for a girl to get the front of her dress wet while she is washing. This is a sign that she will have a drunkard for a husband.
281. It is good luck to eat breakfast without putting your shoes on.

This belief is thought of differently in some sections. In one place of the county the belief was similar, but for the good luck to develop, the time must be on Sunday morning, and breakfast must be served before 7:00 o'clock.

282. It is bad luck to throw down a tooth that has just been pulled and let a cat or dog get it. When the new tooth develops, it will be a cat or dog tooth, whichever was successful in securing for himself the tooth.
283. It is bad luck to make a departure from a building of any type through the window.
284. It is bad luck to carry out ashes after four o'clock on Friday.6

The Courier Journal states that there are 514 things listed by authorities on Kentucky superstitions that bring bad luck. The author has not been able to find that large a number in this particular county. Both good and bad

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6Courier Journal, Friday, October 13, 1933.
luck signs are listed herein, and the number of both does not reach 514.

III. Lucky and Unlucky Objects

1. It is good luck for one to wear his birthstone.

2. It is good luck to carry an old coin. It will keep one from losing money.

3. If you find a piece of money, you must keep it, for it will bring more money to the possessor.

4. You will have good luck if you carry a horse chestnut.

5. If you find a one-leafed clover, you will get a letter from your sweetheart.

6. A four-leafed clover is sure to bring the finder good luck.

7. A five-leafed clover must be passed on to other people. Whoever receives it will have good luck if he passes it on.

8. To find a seven-leafed clover brings bad luck.

9. In corn husking, a red ear brings good luck.

   This is not the same in all parts of the county. A blue-spotted ear is regarded the best in some parts.

10. It is good luck to see a red corn-silk the first in the season. You will hear of a wedding before you hear of a death.

11. It will bring good luck to wear a nutmeg around the neck.

12. It causes good luck to carry an onion in the pocket.

13. If you see a puff ball, you will have fever. You can avoid fever by counting nine.

14. It is unlucky to accept a two-dollar bill.
15. The number three is a lucky number. We often say, "Three times for good luck."

16. Eleven is a good-luck number in a crap game.

17. If one is born on the thirteenth day of the month, thirteen is his lucky number; otherwise it is very unlucky.

18. It is good luck for a card player to carry the wish-bone of a chicken in his pockets; he may also carry a lucky bone from the head of a perch, or the right front foot of a rabbit.

19. It is bad luck to have a black cat follow one after night. It is good luck to be followed by a white one.

20. It is seven years of bad luck to kill a cat; besides, you will be haunted the rest of your life.

21. If you step on a black cat's tail, you will be an old maid or bachelor.

22. To hear a cat whine at midnight is a sign of death in the immediate family.

23. It is good luck to carry the wisdom tooth of a hog.

24. If you pull three hairs from a dog's tail and put them under the doorstep, he will not stray from home.

25. It is good luck to find a horseshoe with the points toward you, provided you hang the shoe up.

26. It is good luck to nail a horseshoe or mule shoe over your door.

These are found frequently over the doors of the village smithy.

27. You will have good luck if you wear the left hind leg of a grave-yard rabbit, shot by a red-headed, cross-eyed negro in the dark of the moon.

28. If you will carry a piece of oyster shell in your pocket book, it will bring you good luck.

29. It is good luck to the owner of a violin if he keeps rattlesnake rattles in it.
30. It brings good luck to grow gourds in a garden. Snakes will not come into the garden.

31. To carry snake-root is good luck. Snakes will not come near a person carrying snake-root.

32. Carry a dead spider in your shoe for good luck, but the carrier must not kill the spider.

33. It is a sign of bad luck to find a small egg in a hen's nest. It is a witch's egg and will hatch trouble.

IV. Lucky and Unlucky Animals

1. If a black cat crosses one's path (either to the right or left), it is a sure sign of bad luck; but if it is a white cat, good luck may be expected.

Perhaps this is the most widely known superstition dealing with bad luck. Strange to say, the author has not found this particular idea believed in opposite ways. Many of the others have been opposite in meaning throughout different sections of the county, but not this one. Its meaning has long since been the same. In one part of the county the writer found a means by which the ill effect could be broken. When the cat has crossed, if one will draw a thread from some garment he is wearing and toss it in the direction of the cat, the spell is broken, and one may travel on his way without danger. If the cat does not cross the path (that is, if he goes part of the way and then back to the side from which he came), no bad luck may be expected.

2. You will have good luck during the year in which you hear the first turtle-dove while walking up grade, and you will have bad luck if you hear the first one while walking down grade.
3. "A swarm of bees in May is worth a ton of hay.
   A swarm in June is worth a silver spoon.
   But a swarm in July is not worth a fly."

4. If you see a woolly worm crossing your path, you will
   have fever. Avert this by spitting nine times.

5. If you take a dog with you on a fishing trip, you will
   be unlucky.

6. If a rabbit crosses your path while you are on your
   way fishing, you will have no luck.

7. It is bad luck to bet on a gray horse at a horse race.

8. It brings bad luck to pass a load or drove of hogs.

9. Twin calves born from a heifer bring a death in
   the family.

10. You will have bad luck if a stray dog comes to you.

11. To see a white or gray horse indicates the coming
    of bad luck.

12. It is good luck to see a white horse; you will get
    money in the same week.

13. It is good luck for a squirrel to cross the road in
    front of you.

14. It brings good luck to have a terrapin or mud turtle
    in your garden.

15. If a white bird of any kind flies into the house, it
    is a sure sign of death in the family.

16. If a bird of any kind flies into a room where there
    is a sick person and lights on the post of the bed
    where the sick one is lying, there will be a death
    in the family soon.

17. It is bad luck to have a black bird fly across your
    path.

18. If you see a white turtle-dove, one of your close
    relatives will die before the month is out.

19. It brings good luck to see a yellow honey-bee.
20. A black honey-bee is a sign of death to the finder.
21. A cricket brings good luck into the house.
22. If a wasp flies into the house, it brings good luck to the family.
23. When you see a fever worm, you must spit over the left shoulder; otherwise you will have typhoid fever.

V. Miscellaneous
1. Dog days begin with the cry of the katydid.
2. If it rains on the first day of dog days, it is a sign of bad luck.
3. If the weather is pretty on Christmas and bad during Easter, there will be a fat graveyard.
4. It is bad luck to have snow out of season.
5. It is good luck for your initials to spell a word. You will be rich.
6. If one plants a tree by a grave, and the tree dies, the planter of the tree will die.
7. "Blossoms out of season Bring trouble out of reason."
8. To find two of any kind of fruit grown together is good luck.
9. If a cedar tree dies in the yard, one that you have planted, one in your family will die before the year is out.
10. No news is a sign of good news.
11. If a green snake bites you, the wound will poison. You will laugh yourself to death.
12. If you see a violet cloud, you will live to old age.
13. The wearer of peacock feathers or colors will have bad luck.
14. Three is an unlucky number in some sections of this county. In other sections it is a lucky number.
15. To have an uneven number of anything is bad luck.
Again there is a difference of opinion in different
sections. Some hunters will not start hunting with an
even number of cartridges.

16. The number seven is a good-luck number.

Often hunters like that number if they are to hunt
for a short time only during that day.

17. The seventh son of a seventh son is endowed with
supernatural powers. He may be a fortune teller,
a healer of the sick, a finder of lost articles, etc.

18. A clock that strikes thirteen prophesies death.

19. If thirteen people are seated at a table, the first
to get up will be the first to die, and that before
the year has been completed.

20. If your hand itches while playing baseball, you will
be successful in catching the next foul ball.

21. The seventh inning is the one that determines the
luck of the game for that day.

22. It is not considered a good time to hunt birds when
it is raining. If the chickens do not seek shelter
but go walking about, it is a good sign that the
birds, too, will be walking about.

23. If a swing stops before you get out, you will die.

24. The man who is unlucky at cards should try his luck
at love, for he will prove lucky.

25. To have the last card dealt to you is bad luck.

26. When one starts in with bad luck, he should stop
soon, for his luck will get worse.

27. If a cat approaches you kindly, you have a good
disposition.

28. If a cat washes its face in the door, someone is
coming.

29. When a cat raises its fur at a person, it is a sign
that the person has a bad disposition.

30. The person who has a stray cat or dog follow him
home at night will have good luck the following day.
31. If a cat is left in the room with a dead person, it will feed on the flesh of the person.

32. When two cats fight for a long time, it is a sign that two of your neighbors will fight soon. If one of the cats happens to be yours, you may be one of the participants in the battle.

33. If a cat looks at a person immediately after washing its face, the person will marry in a short time.

34. It is a sign of disappointment to have a cat scratch you.

35. If a groundhog comes to the house, there will be a death in the family at an early date.

36. If a hog falls from a scaffold after it has been killed, one of the men will die that helped hang it there.

37. If hogs are fed on beechnuts, the meat will be all fat.

38. Blood in the cow's milk is a sign of death in the family.

39. If a cow looks in front of one's door, someone in the family will die before the year is out.

40. Twin calves born from a heifer bring a death in the family.

41. If a dog crawls on his belly and moans, he is measuring his master's grave.

42. If a dog howls in a doorway or beneath a window, there will be a death in the family.

43. It is bad luck for a dog to point its nose toward a person and howl. The person will soon be killed.

44. If a dog howls twice at night, a woman will die; if he howls three times, a man will die.

45. If a dog lies down with his head out the door, someone will leave the family soon, by marriage, death, or otherwise.
46. It is bad luck for a dog to run under clothes on the line; someone in the family will die unless the clothes are washed again.

47. If a dog growls as you start anywhere, you will do well to go back, for such is a sure sign of bad luck.

48. If a horse snorts at night, a stranger is near.

49. If birds fly against your window, you may expect a message. Generally, it contains statements concerning a death in your immediate family.

50. It brings good luck for the shadow of a buzzard to sail across your path before eleven o'clock in the morning.

51. The general cackling of hens is a sure sign of bad luck.

52. If a rooster crows three times in the door of a person's house, that person will soon die.

53. It is a sign of bad luck when a rooster goes crowing to roost.

54. If cocks crow on the roost, you may expect bad news from one of your close neighbors.

55. If a rooster crows before breakfast, someone will come before supper.

56. If the rooster crows in the kitchen, a tramp is coming.

57. If a cock crows about dusk, one may expect unexpected news.

58. When two hens fight, look out for two women. If one hen is light and the other dark, one of the women will wear light garments, the other dark.

59. Someone is coming if a rooster crows. He will come from the direction in which the rooster's tail points.

60. It is bad luck for a hen to crow. She must be put to death, or a death in the family will come.
61. It is a sign of bad luck for a rooster to crow at night except during Christmas time.

62. "A whistling woman or a crowing hen, Never come to a very good end."

63. The scratching of a gray chicken under a window is a sign of bad luck.

64. If a turtle-dove flies over the house, you may expect a death in the family at an early date.

65. If an owlhoots from the top of a house, there will be a death in the family soon. This disaster may be prevented by beating the poker red hot.

66. If an owl hoots for three successive nights before your door, it foretells a death in the family.

67. If a white pigeon flies against the window, it is a sure sign of death entering your house.

68. It is bad luck to have a redbird fly across your path when you are out riding. This bad luck may be averted by turning your horse around in the road.

69. If a redbird flies in front of your door, someone unexpected will come before night.

70. If you see a redbird on Saturday, your sweetheart is coming.

71. It brings good luck to have a wren build inside or near a house. To kill the wren will bring bad luck.

72. If a woodpecker pecks on the roof of a house, someone will die in that house before the year is out.

73. It brings good luck to hear a cricket singing after one has retired at night.

74. It is bad luck to hear a whippoorwill sing in a tree near your house. A death will follow.

75. If a butterfly comes into the room, it is a sign a lady will visit you wearing a dress of the color of the butterfly.
76. It is a sign of bad luck to have a butterfly light on your shoulder.

77. It is a sign of good luck for a butterfly to light on the shoulder.

Here again we have opposite beliefs as to the effect of a superstition.

78. If a firefly comes into the house, it is a sign of good luck.

79. It is bad luck for a wounded snake to die before sundown.

80. It is good luck to find a spider crawling on you.

81. It brings good luck to see a spider spin its web from the ceiling in the morning.

82. It is unlucky to see a spider spin his web from the ceiling at night. To avert the disaster, cut the spider from the web.

83. It is good luck for a bride to find a spider on her trousers.

84. The sure way of killing a witch is to shoot her with a pewter bullet.

Although witchcraft is rapidly dying, there are yet some persons who believe in witchery. Clayson County has several persons who are firm believers in witchcraft.

The writer is offering one good illustration of this belief. A certain woman of this county who was a believer in witches charged another woman with being a witch. The woman believed that the witch brought a certain spell of illness on her. She drew the picture of the witch on a piece of cardboard about ten inches square, tacked up the picture in the henhouse, and filled it full of nails.
It has been the privilege of the author to visit the building and see for himself the remains of this picture. It seems that this method of destroying the power of witchcraft was ineffective, for the person accused of being a witch is still living; while the other woman has already passed on. Other examples of like nature could be mentioned which prove that belief in witches, even to this day, has not fully expired.  

85. A person not believing in witches cannot be bewitched.  

86. It is bad luck for a spider to fall into a lamp and be burned. Witches are near.  

87. A house in which, or near which, an act of violence has been committed is apt to be frequented by the ghost of the victim.  

No doubt there are more believers in haunted houses than in the art of witchcraft. Almost every community has a house which the credulous believe to be haunted. The community of the writer possesses such a house. The building is a two-story one. In one of the second-story rooms peculiar sounds are often heard. The room is left empty. Certain members of the family have heard music and dancing therein. The entrance of any person always destroys the haunt's power, and the noise is discontinued. Various explanations have been offered by people for their belief in haunted houses; however, the author is not sure of the
origin of the haunted condition of this building. Some maintain that a person was murdered in this room. Murder has long been one of the chief reasons for hauntings. Perhaps that is the reason most frequently used. The incident does not have to take place within the walls of a building. It may happen close by the place where the apparition appears. Often a murderer may see his victim in various places. A good example of this is one wherein a man was shot in a certain section of Grayson County. The wound was inflicted in the stomach. The bullet made its way entirely through the body. The path was so large that immediately after the battle a silk handkerchief was drawn through the man's body. The murderer says that, afterwards, he was able to see a ghostly form of his victim hovering over his bedside at night. This seemed to produce a smothering sensation upon him. Many other reasons afford a ghost the privilege of appearing and in the close vicinity of where he passed out of existence. An unfinished task is often used for a ghost's appearance. On the border line of Grayson a man was doing a piece of work; before the task was completed, the man was accidentally killed. Since that time a blue-white light has been seen around the dwelling house on the place.

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8. R. Wright, op. cit., p. 86.
Those who see the light have been subjected to very bad luck. The building is reasonably good, but it is uninhabited and has never been inhabited but one time within the recollection of the writer, and that for a short while only.

88. It is good luck to have bubbles form on your coffee. You will be rich some day.

89. If a little fellow gets a "spankin" on Sunday or Monday, he will get one every day that week.

The author remembers one family who kept their children informed that way. This is one of the superstitions that is gradually drifting away. Only the older people in the county are acquainted with it.

90. When there is a large supply of dirt left after filling the grave, another of that family will soon die.

91. If two clocks stop at the same time, bad luck will ensue.

92. A hole in the stocking indicates that there is a letter in the post office for you.

93. The itching of one's foot is generally accepted as good luck. This is a sign one will walk on strange land before the week is out.

94. When you sleep in a strange room for the first time, if you will name all the corners the name of some lover, the first one you look at in the morning will be the person that you will marry.
CHAPTER III
Cures and Preventives

Folk remedies and medicines are very widely trusted in by many people of Grayson County. There are many sections of Kentucky which have folk practices in connection with childbirth.\(^9\) Men and women who are thought to accomplish cures by incantations, or "ceremonies," and physicians who reinforce more or less legitimate medical practice with charm cures are only gradually becoming less numerous and less influential. People become acquainted with disease and naturally try to provide a remedy. Practical acquaintance with ailments may be obtained by watching the sick and administering drugs, but this type of experience is not of much use in determining the nature and origin of disease. For centuries, physicians have made their comforting presence felt at the bedside of their patients, but their observations have contributed little to the knowledge of the causes of diseases, the means of conferring immunity, or of providing anti-toxins or chemical antidotes which by their specific action upon the virus of diseases successfully save human beings, as well as the lower animals from death and incapacitating.

\(^9\)Daniel L. and Lucy B. Thomas, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 6.
Every year immense sums of money, time, and labor are spent in dealing with the effects of the various diseases to which humanity is liable. Folk medicine for the most part does little harm with its simple remedies, but there have been bad exceptions, as there are among "patent medicines." When an inquest was made in a certain town in England in 1927, the police surgeon reported that the deceased had died from a dose, taken as a remedy for diabetes, of pig's claws boiled, powdered, and made into a kind of tea. Some folk remedies are of very ancient date, while others creep out as new and untried ones. As an example of one of recent origin, it is the desire of the writer to cite an original one on the part of Grayson County. It may be possible for the one given, as such, to have been used in various other parts of the country, but a certain Grayson Countian claims the honor of being the first to use it.

An aged lady in the lower part of the county (near the Ohio County line) says that if two drops of water are placed in the mouth of a baby immediately after it is born, the infant will never have colic. This remedy has been tried, and successfully, by many of the people throughout the county. Some maintain that success is sure to follow;

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10 Sir Richard Gregory, op. cit., p. 203.
others, who have been less successful in its use, say that the remedy will not work for some people; for others, no change is noted. Many times small changes are made in cures by different persons giving them. However, all are supposed to produce the same result. Most often they do produce that result: namely, that no difference is noted other than what Mother Nature herself intended. The writer does not intend to say that there is no value whatever in any cure or preventive. Some have certain herbs, etc., that may be helpful to certain parts of the body. Some are closely associated with certain prescriptions recommended by physicians, but many merely play upon the superstitious belief of the people; and it is impossible for any relief to be given by the use of them.

I. Rheumatism

1. To avoid rheumatism, carry a potato in the pocket.

The explanation of this is that as the potato in the pocket dries, the "screws" go into the tuber instead of the joints. If one thinks seriously about the remedy and how it is to aid in the recovery or prevention of the ailment, he can hardly think of a logical reason for any aid from its use.

2. A potato the size of a large marble may be carried in the pocket. If the potato dries and hardens, the patient is losing his rheumatism; if it rots, no improvement will be noticed.

The number of cures for rheumatism is as large, per-
for hapa, as any other common ailment. The writer has listed a number of the most widely practiced remedies. Some have been found that are not so generally known, and for this reason they have been ignored. The use of the Irish potato seems to be widely known.

3. The nutmeg is used for rheumatism also.

4. The wearing of a wool string around the ankle will cure rheumatism.

The string should be worn alternately on the left and the right ankle. There are differences of opinion as to where and how to wear the string. Some maintain that it should be worn around the left ankle all the while.

5. If one will wear a lead ring, it will prevent rheumatism.

6. Pokeberry tea is a common remedy for rheumatism.

It is supposed to be mixed with whiskey and a tablespoonful drunk before each meal. The berry may be used in a juice or dried form. If it is made in early fall, the ripened berry is better, but many gather the dried berries in the late fall for winter and spring use. Some maintain that the berry gives best results when it is eaten raw; others say that the berry is poison and may kill the sufferer when eaten.

7. To cure rheumatism, catch a live toad and bind it to the back, leave it there for some time, and the pain will pass from the victim into the toad.

8. Skunk grease is used by many for rheumatism. The substance may be rubbed on the aching joints. Redworm oil is used also.
9. Sulphur carried in the pocket will aid rheumatism, except during rainy weather.

   It should not be used at that time, for if it comes into contact with the body, it will make the ailment worse. It seems to produce a stiffening effect upon the body.

10. A silver ring may be worn as a remedy for rheumatism.

11. Some prefer brass to the silver previously mentioned.

12. The following is a remedy for rheumatism: Kill a rattlesnake which has had no chance to strike the killer, skin it, remove the head, dry the rest of the body, place it in a gallon jug of moonshine liquor, and drink this concoction three times per day, preferably before each meal.

   The author has found one person in the county who encourages this remedy.

13. One who wishes to ward off rheumatism should place his shoes side by side under the bed at night. The heels should be placed under first.

14. Crossing the shoes at night serves as a cure for rheumatism.

15. If one can kill a rattlesnake and make a belt from its skin, it will cure rheumatism; however, the snake must be killed by the person who is to wear the belt.

16. A round ham bone carried in the pocket will avert rheumatism.

17. Jump into a hole of water from which you have broken the ice in winter for a cure for rheumatism.

18. Many people wear a horseshoe nail bent in the shape of a ring to prevent rheumatism.

   The author is acquainted with one person who makes these rings. He advertises them as a cure for rheumatic pains.
19. A cord of white silk, or ribbon of the same, will avert rheumatism.

20. Red flannel worn on the left wrist will avert rheumatism.

Some persons think it better to wear undershirts of red flannel.

21. To carry alum in the pocket of somewhere in the clothes will help rheumatic pains.

22. Rheumatism may be cured by carrying elder leaves in the pocket.

23. If one who is suffering from rheumatism will wear an eel skin around his neck, it will stop the disease.

24. An acorn carried in the pocket will prevent the disease of rheumatism.

25. Hunters claim that loss of sleep while hunting, being out in bad weather, etc., causes rheumatism, and in order to turn away its chance of development upon them, they sleep with their hunting hounds.

26. A brass ring worn around the left thumb prevents rheumatism.

Does the reader not wonder which actually prevents the disease, the type of metal the ring is made from or the finger upon which it is worn?

27. Amber beads worn around the neck will prevent rheumatism.

28. A copper wire worn around the aching joint will prevent rheumatism. There should be at least three folds of it.

29. The oil from the fat of a yellow cat fish is highly recommended as a cure for rheumatism.

This remedy in Grayson County was originated by a fisherman. The oil has been sold in this section for that purpose.
30. If a humble-bee sting is placed between the second and third fingers of the right hand, it will cure rheumatism. The sting does not necessarily have to be placed there by the bee.

31. Fishing worms are often used as a remedy for rheumatism.

Let them remain in a can all day, out in the sun; at night place some of the secretion on the painful joints.

32. A piece of sheep skin worn around the right ankle of a person suffering from rheumatism will do much to avert the pain. The skin should be worn in the natural way, with the wool to the outside.

II. Warts and Moles

1. Moles on the flesh may be taken away by the milky substance from a milkweed.

This should be used during the period when the plant has a large supply of milk in it.

2. To remove a wart saturate it with castor oil night and morning for a week. If, at the end of the week, the wart is not getting smaller, delay the application for a few days. After about three days begin the use of the oil again, and the wart will begin to disappear.

The methods in which warts are cured are high in number. The writer found many remedies mentioned other than the ones used herein. Some have been ignored because they were not used by people at large but merely by one or two individuals.

3. For treatment of a wart, pick it with a brass pin. Let one drop of blood fall on a stone. Cover the drop with another stone and bury them in a secret place.

There seems to be a great deal of confidence placed in a secret burial of the articles used in the treatment of the wart. For this reason there are a large number of remedies based upon secret burial.
4. To rid yourself of a wart, bury an apple secretly and say this charm:
   "As the apple does decay, so let my wart go away!

   Often certain charms are used to accompany the secret burial. By the time the apple has decayed, the wart will have disappeared, and the person bearing it will not have known when it left.

5. Rub the wart with the under side of a round bone and then bury the bone secretly. The wart should disappear within three weeks' time.

6. If a wart is rubbed with bacon rind, it will disappear. The rind should be buried in a place of secrecy. The wart will disappear as the rind decays.

7. If one has several warts, he should rub them with a piece of bacon. Tie a string around it and bury it. The warts will disappear in nine days.

8. Warts may be cured by taking nine bean leaves and rubbing them over the warts nine times. The leaves should then be buried in a secret place. When the leaves rot, the warts will disappear.

9. Warts may be cured by planting beans. Plant one bean in a fertile spot. When the bean sprouts, the wart will disappear.

10. Any kind of fresh meat, especially beefsteak, will serve to help remove a wart. Rub the wart with the steak until it is moistened well; then tie a string about the steak and bury it secretly. The wart should disappear as the meat decays.

11. Kill a black cat, take it to a graveyard at midnight, and rub the cat over the wart. Bury it in the graveyard. The cat's head should be turned toward the west. The warts should disappear in nine days.

   It seems that even though a person is superstitious, killing a cat at this time will not cause the regular seven years of bad luck. Some people maintain that the wart will
disappear only when it has been washed in the blood of the black cat. They say that the cat should have been killed in the light of the moon. This does not have to be applied in a graveyard.

12. A wart will leave in three days if one will squeeze the juice of a bean leaf on the part affected by it.

13. Place blood from a wart on a corn blade. Fold the blade in a square shape and bury it. The wart will make an early disappearance.

14. Pick warts until they bleed and put a bit of blood on as many grains of corn as you have warts. Plant the grains of corn. A wart will disappear for each grain of corn that grows. The corn may be fed to a chicken; then the warts will leave the bearer of them and go to the chicken.

15. To make a wart leave, rub the intestine of a chicken on it. Place the intestine out in the sunshine. When all the moisture dries out of it, the wart will leave.

16. Rub a wart with a seed bean; drop the bean into a well. When the bean rots, the wart will disappear.

17. Take the grounds from a borrowed coffee pot and rub the wart with them. Put the grounds into a bag and bury them. When they decay, the warts will leave your body for the body of the lender.

18. Pick a wart with a needle until it bleeds. Take one drop of blood from it and place it on a piece of cornbread. Feed the bread to a gander. The wart will disappear within ten days.

19. If you have several warts, take as many stems of "rag-weed" as you have warts. Pick each wart until there will be enough blood to place some on each stem. Lay the pieces of weeds under a rock near the place where the weeds grow. When the stems decay, the warts will go away.

In practicing this remedy there are several different weeds used. The writer mentions the one most commonly used.
20. Pick a wart with a grain of popcorn until the wart bleeds. Feed the grain to a red rooster. The wart will disappear in nine days.

21. Cut a wart and place one drop of blood on a pumpkin seed. Drop the seed into a crawfish hole. The wart will disappear in less than a week.

22. Rub your wart with the dirt from a newly-made grave, and it will go away.

23. Some people can count warts off. When they leave the bearer, they will go to the counter, unless the latter designates a particular individual for them to go to.

24. A wart may be cured by cutting a piece of grapevine and rubbing the ooze on the wart. Bury the vine in a secret place.

25. Some persons can rub a wart away by a certain 'conjure'.

Probably the reader knows of a person gifted with this ability. The author has witnessed the use of this remedy and knows different individuals who make a practice of removing warts from people. They do not make a charge for their labor. The person affected is at liberty to give whatever he wishes. He must also believe that the person delivering the 'conjure' is able to remove the warts successfully.

26. A wart may be removed by rubbing it seven times with a gold ring. The ring should not belong to the one who is using it, nor should it be borrowed from one in the family.

27. Fishermen say that a wart can be removed by rubbing it with the first fish caught in the season. The fish must be caught by the person who wishes to have the wart removed. It should be a scaly fish.

28. A wart can be removed by cutting a cross mark on a tree, picking the wart until it bleeds, and rubbing the blood on the cross mark. When the mark grows up, the wart will disappear.
29. If you have a wart on your finger, cut the nail on that finger into the quick. The wart will disappear as the nail grows out.

30. A wart may be cured by going to a cross-roads and making a cross in the directions of the prongs of the road. The sufferer must spit into this cross and depart from it immediately. The wart will leave within three days and go on the first one who passes by the cross after the person spit on it.

31. Steal an egg from a neighbor's hen-house, rub it over the wart nine times, and then bury the egg in some secret place near the hen-house. When the egg rots, the wart will disappear. This act should be done during a light moon.

32. If you rub a wart with the juice of a dandelion, it will disappear when the stem of the dandelion dries up.

33. If a seed wart is tied tightly with a dog's hair, the wart will disappear.

The knot in the hair gradually becomes tighter until it finally cuts the wart off. Castor oil will aid the quick removal of the wart in this remedy. The knot should be tied, then the wart and surrounding tissue should be saturated with castor oil. This cuts the top off the wart, but the roots are left in the part affected, and there is a strong chance of the reappearance of the wart.

34. Warts may be removed by a stolen dishrag. Rub the warts with the rag and then bury it secretly. When the rag rots, the warts will disappear. Another way of getting rid of the rag is to throw it over the left shoulder. By this act even the one who is doing it does not know where the rag went.

35. Warts may be removed by selecting three herbs from a nearby wood. Spit on each herb and touch it to each wart. Bury the herbs; be sure to tell no one, and allow no one to witness the act. When the herbs rot, the warts will disappear.
36. One can cut a wart off with a horse hair.

This remedy is the same as the one mentioned in the use of the dog hair. The horse hair is much more easily used. It may be taken from the mane or tail. It should surround the wart only once, as a number of strands of the hair would not cut regularly. Castor oil should be used with this one, too. Some say that a silk thread is much more effective than any type of hair.

37. When you first see the new moon, take the object, or a piece of it, upon which you are standing, rub the wart nine times with it, and then throw it over your right shoulder. The wart will disappear immediately. Tell no one of your act.

38. If you will rub a wart night and morning for five straight mornings, you will have the wart removed.

39. Milk-weed juice will remove a wart. Saturate it at night with the juice. By morning the wart will be cured.

40. If you will rub a wart with a stalk of green mustard, it will disappear at once.

41. To remove a wart, cut three notches in a peach-tree limb. When the notches are filled up, the wart will disappear unknown to the bearer.

42. Pick a wart until it bleeds, drop some of the blood on a rusty nail, and drive the nail into an oak tree. The wart will disappear at once.

43. You can wish your warts away. Give each wart on the hand the name of some person you never heard of and make some good wish about them; the warts will go off in seven days.

44. Go secretly to a young plum tree, cut as many notches on the tree as you have warts. Put your knife away, and your warts will immediately disappear.
45. Cut the top off a wart. Put a drop of blood on a piece of the wart on a paper. The paper should be thrown over the left shoulder. If any one should pick up the paper, your wart will pass on to him.

46. If there appear on your wrists, name the animal "Penny" and call it always by that name. The warts will disappear in a short while.

47. Smoke a nettle and stick it in the wart; then throw the nettle away and the wart will disappear.

48. Count the warts for nine nights straight. They will disappear at the end of the ninth night.

49. If you will rub a penny over a wart for nine nights, it will remove it.

50. Throw a piece of potato over your left shoulder. When it sprouts, the wart will leave.

51. Pick a wart until it bleeds. Split the bark of a persimmon tree and put a drop of blood within it. When the bark grows up, the wart will be gone.

52. If you will boil potatoes and wash your hands in the juice, your warts will go away.

53. If you find a pin, close your eyes and turn around three times. Your warts will go away within ten days.

54. You can remove a wart by rubbing it twice each day with a piece of raw Irish potato. The wart will be taken out by the roots within two weeks.

55. Pick a wart with a pin until it bleeds; then have one to blindfold you. Stick the pin into the ground without letting any one know what you are doing. The wart will disappear when the pin becomes rusty.

56. Poke-root rubbed over a wart for three days in succession will cause it to disappear. Some say that the berries are better than the root.

There may be some medicinal value in this remedy.

57. To remove a wart, push a straight pin entirely through the wart. Heat the point of the pin and draw it back through the wart.
This may be effective on account of the heat. In using this remedy, one should guard carefully against an infection.

58. You can remove your warts by giving a pin to some person who is not a relative of yours. A girl should give the pin to a boy and vice versa. The wart will leave the giver and pass to the receiver of the pin.

59. If you wish to remove a wart, pick it with a pin which does not belong to one of the family. Hide the pin near a crossroads. The next passer-by will receive the wart.

60. If you will pick a wart with a pin which has never been used and then throw the pin where it will never be found, the wart will disappear with a double assurance that it will never return.

61. Measure your warts with a piece of stick. Bury the piece in a secret place. When this bit of stick decays, the warts will disappear.

62. Any person may remove a wart from another person by rubbing the wart nine times, repeating these words: "By the art of hocus-pocus legerdemain, this wart is commanded by me to change." The wart will disappear within the next few days.

63. Cut in an oak stick as many notches as you have warts. Place the stick in a dry branch. When the notches are made wet, the warts will disappear.

The writer found one person who said that the stick should be placed under the drip of the house. In this case, the warts will be washed away by the first rain.

64. Salt will remove warts. Take a bit of fine salt and rub the wart briskly with it night and morning for nine mornings.

65. A wart can be removed by selling it to some one. The money should be kept by the seller, or the wart will not be removed. The wart does not necessarily go on to the one who buys it.
66. You can remove a wart from yourself by spitting on it and rubbing it hard, while some one in the family repeats a hocus-pocus rite.

67. Dig a fresh willow-root and cut as many notches in it as there are warts on the hands. Plant this root. If it grows, the warts will disappear.

68. A black silk thread may be tied around a seed wart. When the thread wears out, the wart will leave immediately.

69. You can remove a wart by rubbing a finger ring on a rug. After this act, rub the ring on the wart three times. It will disappear before the week is out.

70. Give each wart the name of a doctor. Take a poplar stick and cut a notch for each doctor. Push the stick into the ground so that half the notches are above earth, the other half below. The warts will fall out in ten days.

71. One who has warts may remove them by going out secretly each morning and rubbing a stone over each wart. The stone shall be placed back in the place from where it came. This act must be repeated daily until the wart disappears.

72. To remove warts, steal a neighbor's dish towel and pull a thread from it. Tie as many knots in the thread as there are warts on the hand. Bury this thread, and when it rots, the warts will leave within a few days.

73. Take a piece of straw for every wart; touch each wart with a separate straw. Bury the straws in a place nearby. When the straws rot, the warts will disappear.

74. Rub a bundle of straws over a wart, and place it in a path where people travel often. When it is picked up, the wart will leave you for the one who picked it up.

75. Pick your warts with a broom straw. Break the straw into as many pieces as you have warts. Bury the pieces. When they rot, your warts will be gone.

76. To remove your warts, tie three knots in a red yarn string and throw it into the fire. The warts will leave soon.
77. A wart can be removed from the hand by rubbing it. Some person who is not a member of the immediate family may rub the wart twenty-five times. The wart will leave your hand for the one who rubbed it.

It seems that no one would like to rub warts on his own hand; however, persons are willing to try it for the relief of someone else.

78. Have someone tie a red yarn string around the wart. Leave the knot just the size of the wart. Place this string in a secret place, and when the string rots, the wart will disappear. This last act should be carried out by the afflicted person. If the secrecy is revealed, the remedy will not work. Another chief way is to have the one who tied the knot to hide the string in a place unknown to the bearer.

This is one of the oldest and most widely used remedies involving the use of the string. In some places it is thought that only certain individuals are successful in using this remedy, for the most part, women. Many, however, maintain that it can be done by any person.

79. To remove a wart, cut a green walnut half in two. Rub the wart with the rind of the walnut. The wart will disappear when the stain from the walnut leaves. This should not be washed off.

This remedy is used for ring worm also.

80. You can cure a wart by walking backwards to an old hollow stump full of water. Stick your hand into the water and repeat a hocus-pocus charm. The wart will disappear when the water evaporates from the stump.

81. If you have a seed-wart, stick a toothpick dipped in vinegar into it, and let it remain for one day. The wart will disappear in two weeks, unknown to the bearer.
82. To remove a wart, get up some morning without speaking to anyone or allowing anyone to speak to you. Walk down the steps backward and out of the house to a thorn bush. Break a thorn from the bush and pin it somewhere in your clothes. Repeat these words or some similar ones to the thorn bush: "Mr. Thorn, I wish to trade you my warts for a thorn this fine morn." If you are able to wear the thorn all day without losing it, your warts will be sure to leave in three days.

83. If you wish to remove warts, put tobacco juice on them. This juice should be prepared by the one who is afflicted. Put it on at the same time each day for seven days. The warts will disappear before another seven days have elapsed.

84. If you have a seed-wart, cut the top of it off with a safety razor blade or some other sharp cutting instrument. It should be cut deep enough to allow a tiny bit of blood to appear above the cut. Cut the head off a match, retaining as much of the head as possible. Place this head firmly against the fresh-cut wart. Strike another match and bring it close enough to the head of the wart for it to be ignited. The pain will be quite severe, but not so much as one might believe. The explosion of the match sears the cap, and one match head may not be enough to cover the wart. In case it isn’t, the afflicted person should cut more than one match head. If the wart does not disappear within five days, again cut away the burnt skin and apply the same remedy. Enough applications will render a valuable service. This remedy, so far as the writer has been able to learn, is original in Grayson County.

85. A wart may be removed by rubbing it against a dead man’s neck. This act should be performed secretly, after dark.

86. To remove a wart, rub it over the face of some animal, preferably a cow, three times in the shape of a cross. The wart will disappear within two weeks.
III. Snake Bites

1. A snake bite may be cured by burying the wounded part in the earth. The wound may not be so poisonous if the snake is killed. Some say that the wound should have a piece of the snake which has been slain bound around it.

2. Tie half of a freshly killed chicken around the portion which has been bitten by a snake.

3. A dog can help a snake bite. Put some kind of grease on the wound and allow the dog to lick it off.
   Some people advise the help of a dog for any type of sore. The saliva flowing from his mouth seems to be the substance from which the aid comes.

4. A snake bite may be cured if the patient will immediately suck the blood from the wound with his own mouth. One should be careful to swallow no part of saliva during the sucking process. If the patient has hollow teeth, he should not suck the wound.

5. Bind the liver and intestines of a snake to its bite; this is a sure cure for snake-bite.

6. When one is bitten by a snake, he should take a sharp knife, razor, or some other cutting instrument and cut stripes across the wound. These stripes should be deep enough to make the blood flow and should be cut both ways, thus forming tiny squares or blocks. Press this part of the wound firmly, until blood has flowed freely; then cover the wound with common table salt. Allow this to stay for several hours. For a wound inflicted by a poisonous snake the same cutting procedure may be used; but instead of using the salt, use enough gunpowder to cover the wound (or about as much as is contained in a thirty-two cartridge), strike a match, and place on the powder. The explosion of the powder will destroy the poison injected by the snake.
IV. Boils

1. Jump include that each open swallowed will cure boils. They should be swallowed regularly.

2. Honey will cure boils when eaten properly.

3. A piece of fat pork placed upon a boil will cure it.

4. Take a small part of the yellow of an egg and dissolve as much salt in it as you can conveniently, then lay about four or five drops upon the boil, and this will draw it open. After the pus and core have been removed, the boil gets well.

5. To cure boils, make a poultice of mud-digger's nest and place it on the boil. The best part of the poultice should be placed around the part which looks as if it might form the opening of the boil.

6. If one will eat a teaspoonful of dry sulfur about twice each week for a month, he will never have another boil.

7. Bathe will cure boils. Put a tablespoonful at each meal for about a month.

8. A poultice made from wheat bran will cure a boil.

9. If two large boils run together on a patient, it will kill him. To avoid this, be very careful in dressing a boil. Do not raise any part near a boil.

10. V. Colds

1. To keep off a cold wear a "how bug" around your neck.

2. Bullein tea will cure bronchitis, whooping cough.

3. Alice rubbed on a baby's feet will cure boils.

4. A slice made of turnips, beet, and spinach will cure a cold if it is applied to the chest and a flannel or wool cloth is placed over the chest.

5. Drink much water when suffering from a cold. Additional relief may be had by drinking a glassful of water in which a teaspoonful of soda has been dissolved.
6. Soak the feet in water, hot as the victim can stand it, just before retiring.

This draws the blood from the congested part, thus causing the patient to rest.

7. A teaspoonful of vinegar (better pepper-sauce) in which there has been some salt and black pepper dissolved will cure a cold. It is also good as a gargle for sore throat.

8. To cure a sore throat, let a man who has smoked for several years blow his breath down your throat. Or better still, crumble some dry mullein leaves and smoke a cigarette made from them.

9. Yellow root makes a good cure for sore throat or any kind of infection in the mouth. Chew a piece of the root until the saliva turns yellow. Rinse it around in the mouth, then gargle. There is a bit of medicinal value in this root; it is used in a number of medicines.

10. If you accidentally fall into a creek, your cold will be cured.

11. If you are suffering from a sore throat, tie your right sock around your neck, while it is yet warm, and let it remain there during the night.

12. Salt pork will prevent a sore throat.

13. You can cure a cold by tying a hemp string around your great toe on the left foot.

14. Hunters of this section claim that if one will rub down one's back the first skunk caught in winter, he will not have a cold during the entire winter.

VI. Miscellaneous

1. To cure thrush carry the patient to the one who is able to render the service (those who are born without seeing their father are qualified), have the breath of this person blown into the mouth and nostrils of the infant.

The author has been often reminded of being cured of
the thrush (a breaking out in the mouth), which is an ailment of infants, by a certain lady in the county. This lady's father died a short time before she was born, thus giving her the power of healing this particular malady. It is a deep regret of the author that he does not remember the trip to visit the lady who was to cure him. However, it was done before the first year of the writer's life had been completed. He has often been reminded of the visit of Johnson to the stately woman who stroked him and presented him with a gold coin by which he was to be cured of a scrofulous taint and wondered if there was not about as much cure in the "blowing" as in the "stroking."

2. Many persons maintain that when a finger, a toe, an arm, or any member of the body is amputated, it should be buried in a straight position; otherwise the patient will suffer pains from cramp.

It is often customary in some sections to hold the member from burial for a short time to see whether or not the body is going to cramp. Perhaps the reader recalls an example of this type or maybe the removal of an amputated member from the grave. The writer has conversed with one person who had his left arm cut off in an accident. Three days after the arm was buried, the man began suffering severe cramping at the end of the arm. It seemed that his

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fingers were hurting. One neighbor suggested that the buried arm be taken from the grave. This was done; the workers found that three of the fingers were drawn out of a natural position. After straightening the fingers out, they returned to the house of the patient and found that his arm no longer cramped him. The injured man thought he could tell the instant the fingers were placed in a natural position, for his pain was cured before the workers returned. Some persons say that secrecy should be maintained in the burial of an amputated member. Often the patient finds that the buried member itches considerably. To cure this itching, just scratch the other arm or foot, and the sensation will cease.

3. To stop the flow of blood from a wound, fill the wound with soot from the chimney.

A tea made from soot and heated over a wood fire is used rather widely.

4. Hemorrhages can be stopped by pills made from the cobwebs in some nearby building.

5. Asthma may be cured by wearing a string of amber beads about the neck.

6. One may remove birthmarks by rubbing them with the hand of a corpse.

7. When you cut yourself on a piece of tin, bury the tin in the ground to cure the wound.

8. Some people can stop the flow of blood in other people or in animals. The power runs in families: a man must teach it to a woman, and a woman to a man.
9. Hemorrhages may be stopped by laying an axe under the 
bed of the patient.

10. To stop the nose from bleeding, allow a key to fall 
down the back of the sufferer.

11. To stop the nose from bleeding, dampen the head and 
back of the neck. The water should be cold. It may 
be applied with a cloth, or the naked hand if no cloth 
is available. The back of the head and neck should 
not be rubbed.

Nose bleeding is a common happening with many persons. 
Nearly everyone who is subject to this occurrence has his 
own remedy, and for this reason many remedies are practiced. 
It is interesting to know that often the same remedy is 
practiced in a different way in different sections of the 
country. For instance, in the use of water, some advocate 
severe rubbing when the water is placed at the back of the 
neck. Logically speaking, there may be some material benefit 
in the use of cold water with no rubbing. The cold water 
will decrease the rapidity of circulation around the affected 
part; but if rubbing is administered, the circulation is 
increased; therefore the blood may continue to flow from the 
nasal cavity.

12. You can stop the nose from bleeding by wearing lead 
around the neck. If the nose happens to bleed while 
the lead is around the neck, place it on the shoulder, 
and after a short time the nose will stop bleeding.

There seems to be little value in this remedy except 
that a good spirit is held and an optimistic viewpoint on 
the part of the sufferer. Generally speaking, the nose does 
not bleed very long, and after a while it will stop of its 
own accord.
13. The nose may be stopped from bleeding if the person will tie a red yarn string around the thumb.

14. To wear a string of corn around the neck will stop the nose from bleeding.

15. In some parts of the county persons say to place a red yarn string around the little finger.

Perhaps there is a reason for having a special finger upon which to place the yarn, just as there is a special reason for the bride's wearing the engagement ring on the third finger of the left hand. In early times it was believed that a nerve ran directly from this finger to the heart.12 The thought may have developed also that a nerve runs from the little finger to the nose. However, the blood of the body is pumped by the heart and goes to all sections, thus giving a connection of the heart and third finger, likewise, the remaining fingers on both hands.

16. To stop the nose from bleeding, place a piece of silk paper under the upper lip. To double the effect of this remedy, place a piece of stiff cardboard between the teeth and press down firmly upon it.

17. It is a good idea to place the scissors down the back of the person suffering from nose bleeding.

18. If the nose becomes accidentally mashed, the blood may be stopped by pressing the nostrils firmly between the thumb and first finger, breathing through the mouth for the time being. Some cold water may be added to the face, especially the forehead. To throw the head backward will increase the effect of this remedy.

This is an original remedy in Grayson County.

19. To cure a horse of bots, rub him nine times from the tip of his nose to the end of his tail, repeating some lingo; then slap his side.

20. Bots may be cured by feeding the horse a quart of sorghum molasses. Allow this to remain in the intestine for one hour, then drench the horse with a pound of salts dissolved in a half gallon of water. The sugar in the molasses causes the germs to come into it; then the salts will remove the entire contents from the intestines.

21. Burns may be cured by certain persons who have the miraculous power of "blowing out fire" from the wound. Generally the person who does the blowing has some type of magic incantation which he repeats.

22. The fire may be taken out of a burn by wetting the finger with saliva and touching the burn, repeating some lingo.

23. A good remedy for a burn is to take molasses and mix it with soda. The mixture should form a thin salve. Cover the affected part with the salve, then with a clean cloth. This mixture will draw the fire from the burn.

24. Never burst a blister formed by a burn or a mosh. The solution under this thin membrane will serve as a protector to the underlying skin (the dermis), which is tender and easily injured. The blister will finally burst, but not until the under layer has become toughened to some extent and is in part ready to take care of itself.

25. Any kind of grease, such as vaseline, lard, butter, etc., will aid as a treatment for burns. Such serves to keep the skin soft and pliable.

26. To cure chicken-pox, the victim should sit in the chicken house for an hour. This should be done for three days in succession.

27. Chicken-pox boils may be moistened by the water in which the feathers of a black chicken have been boiled.

Why it is necessary to have a black chicken is not
understood. In fact, any reason for such is not reliable, because feathers of other colors are often used by persons who do not have black chickens. The writer has found one to advocate that white feathers are better than black ones.

28. A cat which is ill may be aided if a dog will lick her.

29. If you will wash your hands in the first snow that falls, they will not chap during the entire winter.

30. If you will carry an Irish potato in your pocket, it will avert chills.

31. If you have small pox, you will never have tuberculosis.

32. If you will eat a snail each morning for nine mornings, you will cure consumption.

33. Blow tobacco smoke on a baby's stomach to cure colic.

34. As a cure for tuberculosis, cut the head off a rattle snake, put the snake into rum, then drink of the concoction two or three times a day.

35. Butter fly root is good for consumption.

36. Stick a table fork into the head of the bed of a sufferer of tuberculosis for a cure.

37. To remove a corn from the foot, cut it off with a blade that has shaved the dead.

38. Soft lye soap used to wash corns will remove them.

39. To prevent a child from having croup, place his bare foot in the first snow that falls after his birth.

40. To cure a crick in the neck or back, rub either against a tree where a hog has rubbed itself.

41. When a cow's bag is hard and will not break, rub the bag three mornings with a flat rock.

42. Skunk oil is good for croup. It is used both internally and externally.
43. If you will place the shoes with the toes pointed under the bed, it will prevent the feet from cramping.

44. A bowl of water placed under the bed at night will prevent the feet from cramping.

45. Often cows lose their cuds. If you will feed one a soiled dish cloth, she will recover the cud.

46. To prevent tired arms from aching and cramping, place a leather band around the wrist.

47. A yarn string tied around the ankle will prevent cramps.

48. If one is swimming far from shore and his feet begin to cramp, he should stop swimming, dive to the bottom if necessary, and rub the arch of the foot.

It is true that the average swimmer cannot dive very long at a time, but often just a few strokes on the toes or bottom of the feet will straighten the feet out until one can get to shore. It is much better to attempt this than try to get ashore, especially if the distance is far and the cramp is severe.

49. If the legs cramp at night, place the scissors or some piece of steel in bed with you.

50. Ear-ache can be prevented by blowing smoke into the ear.

51. If a dog that bites a person goes mad later, so will the person. Therefore kill the dog straightway.

52. A medstone, a stonelike substance sometimes found in the body of a deer or other animal, will prevent the bite of a mad dog from producing hydrophobia.

53. If a dog bites a person, the hair of that dog, when placed on the wound, is good for it.

54. To cure diphtheria, place a part of a freshly killed chicken against the throat.
55. Ear-ache can be cured by putting a lock of negro hair in the ear and then holding the hand over it.

56. If you have your ears pierced, you will never have sore eyes.

57. Frozen feet can be cured by wrapping them in the skin of a freshly killed rabbit, leaving the fur outside.

58. March snow is good for sore eyes.

59. Bottled snow water is good for sore eyes.

60. Frozen feet may be cured by wrapping them in the skins of squirrels killed in the dark of the moon.

61. Washing the feet in dish water will cure sore feet.

62. It is a common happening to have the foot go to sleep. If the person experiencing such will make a cross on the leg with a wet finger, the foot will wake up.

63. Stuff the shoes with damp paper and let them sit for three days, and they will not hurt the feet.

   This is an excellent remedy for a pair of new shoes. Just fill them as nearly in the shape of the foot as possible.

64. To fill the shoes with corn then pour some water on the corn will cause them never to hurt the feet again.

65. If a person will wear a bag of rhubarb around the neck, his children will never have club feet.

66. If you will bathe the feet in running water from a stream that runs west, it will cure frost bite.

67. To cure headache, place the hand on the forehead and press firmly. Do this in such a way that each pulse-beating place is pressed.

68. Brown paper and vinegar will stop headache.

69. A buckeye carried in the pocket will prevent headache.

70. As a cure for a fever blister cover it with soda.
71. Dip the finger in turpentine and rub the lip briskly when a fever blister starts, and it will not continue to develop.

72. If a fever blister develops, remove some of the wax from the ear and cover the blister with it.

73. Kissing the forehead of a dog will cure fever blisters.

74. To cure freckles, get up before the sun rises, go out to the wheat field, and wash in the dew.

75. If on the first day of May you walk backward from your bed outdoors and then wash your face in the dew, freckles will leave you.

76. If one will wash in water standing in an oak stump, freckles will disappear.

77. If you will rub grass over your face before the dew is off, freckles will disappear.

78. Perhaps one of the most widely used remedies for freckles is to wash the face in buttermilk.

79. If one is caught out in the first shower in May, his freckles will go away.

80. Freckles washed with the rind of a melon will disappear after they have been washed nine times.

81. If one will find a basin of still water in an oak grove and wash the face for nine successive mornings, before sunrise, the freckles will disappear.

This remedy was developed in Grayson County. The writer found several people very familiar with it as well as some who had tried it.

82. Tar placed on a galled wound on a horse will prevent the hair from coming out white.

83. Burnt leather applied to a galled place will prevent the hair from coming out white.

84. Carry one of your teeth in your pocket or around the neck, and you will never have headaches.
85. For headache, bruise the leaf of a horse radish plant, wet it in vinegar, and bind it around the forehead.

86. To swallow a spider web will prevent headache.

87. To cure hiccough, hold your breath and count nine.

88. Take nine sips of water while holding the breath to stop hiccough.

89. If you have a hiccough, think of your lover, repeat some nice, and if the lover is true, you will hiccough no more.

90. A hiccough can be cured by placing the thumbs behind the ears and pressing firmly.

91. To accuse a person falsely of something, thereby getting him scared badly, will stop hiccough.

92. If somebody tells somebody else to get you a drink, it will cure a hiccough.

93. To cure hiccough, take nine steps backward, then turn around nine times, holding the breath while you are turning around, and your hiccough will disappear.

94. Iron is one of the necessary essentials to good health. It may be given in various forms, simple filings, rust of iron, or salt of steel.

95. To cure hives on a baby, mix Irish potato peelings, peanut butter, and lard. Cook this mixture to a syrup; then rub the places with it.

96. A goat kept with a herd of cattle will keep off infectious diseases. If it is allowed to run near the barns, there will be no fleas in the buildings.

97. A cow may be cured of the hollow horn by cutting a gash in the cow’s tail, filling it full of salt, and sewing it up.

98. To cure hollow tail among cattle, tie the head very high, split the tail, push a mixture of salt and black pepper into the slit until it is completely filled, then tie a rag lightly around the place. After the work has been finished, saturate the tail with turpentine.
This is a common ailment among cattle. Perhaps the reader has had the privilege of seeing this remedy used or maybe a similar one. When cattle have hollow tail, the lower part of the tail, next to the tassel, becomes soft. It feels as if it were full of pus. When this part is lanced, this soft substance will run out. The author witnessed such an operation a short time since. The turpentine used was to disinfect any germs that might develop from the wound, but the main purpose seemed to be to keep the cow from chewing off the sash of the tail and the cloth covering the slit in the tail. The workers were very careful not to put any pressure on the lower part of the tail. It was supposed to be very soft and would easily have been broken from the cow’s body.

99. For measles use "sheep-nanny" tea.

This is a drink made by pouring hot water over the dried mamuro of sheep. This remedy is used widely, not only in Grayson County, but in the country as a whole. Its purpose is to cause the victim to break out. Many persons do not break out easily, especially persons of dark complexion. After the tea is made, the sufferer is to take a drink as often as he is thirsty (which may not be very often, if the patient happens to remember what he has awaiting with which to quench his thirst).

100. If one will carry a nutmeg in the pocket or in the clothes, it will prevent any type of stomach trouble.

101. A chicken gizzard boiled into a broth is good for indigestion.
102. The common "ray weed" boiled into a solution is an excellent remedy for stomach ailments.

103. A tea made in a similar manner to the previous one mentioned—whic is good for the stomach is that made from dog-fennel.

104. Ginseng is a sure remedy for all kinds of stomach trouble.

This is one of the best and perhaps the most widely used roots.

105. You can cure itch in the toe by wearing a yarn string around the toe which is affected.

106. Itch on the body may be cured by a salve made from a mixture of sulphur and grease (preferably lard). The body should be covered around the affected parts. One should be very careful when he is using this salve. If the body becomes wet by rain, it will be stiff. The salve is applied every night for four nights; then do not use any for a period of seven or eight days.

This remedy is known widely. It was being used in a certain case in this county one night, and the following morning the patient was broken out with chicken pox. No one had heard of a case of this kind, and every one who knew it was eager to know what the result would be. So far as one could tell, no damage was done, but there seemed to be no benefit to the chicken-pox.

107. If the kidneys are affected, pills made from pine pitch should be taken.

108. A tea made from yellow root is a good remedy for kidney trouble.

109. A drink made from mullein will cure affected kidneys.

110. To ward off mumps, wear a silk cord around the waist.
111. Lumps that has fallen on a patient may be cured by catching the steam from sheep nanny tea on the affected part.

112. Painful menstruation is often remedied by taking the largest grown pullet that has never laid an egg, pick her without scalding her, beat her to pieces, and boil the flesh until it is perfectly soft. The patient should drink the soup about the time of the change.

113. If you find a nail in your horse's foot, pull it out and put it into your pocket, and the foot will never get sore.

114. If a nail is stuck into your foot, be sure to drive the nail into the ground. It will cause the swelling to go out of the wound much sooner.

115. If you stick a nail into your foot, draw it out of the planks or whatever is holding it, grease it with mutton tallow, and carry it in your pocket. Then the wound will heal rapidly.

Some say that the nail may be greased with any type of grease but that it should not be carried. It should be hidden where no one will find it until after the wound has had time to heal.

116. To prevent piles carry a horse chestnut in the pocket.

117. A salve made from buckeyes fried in grease, to which some mutton tallow has been added, forms an excellent remedy for piles. The buckeye should be pulverized. Care should be taken not to allow children to get the kernel from the buckeye. It is poison.

118. For piles, bathe the affected parts in a solution of alum water. The solution should be strong.

119. To a pan the size of an ordinary wash pan which is about two-thirds filled with water add two tablespoonfuls of common salt, stir until the salts has dissolved, and then bath the affected part for a relief from piles. The water should
be just as hot as the patient can stand it. For best results, dip a cloth into the solution; then apply and leave it there until the heat has practically left the cloth.

120. Neuralgia may be prevented by the use of a red silk handkerchief tied around the head.

121. Wear a nutmeg around the neck to prevent neuralgia.

122. To cure pneumonia place the neck and head of a freshly killed chicken on the chest, cover it with a flannel cloth, and allow it to remain until the chicken becomes cold.

123. One can prevent night sweats by placing a pan of water under the bed. Night sweats frequently follow or accompany malarial chills; this remedy will serve for sweats of this type also.

124. For night sweats sleep with the scissors or some other piece of metal under the pillow.

125. Rub a sty with the finger on which there is a gold ring and repeat the following:

"Sty, sty, go off my eye
Go on the next one who comes riding by."

The sty will soon disappear.

Many people suffer from a sty on the eye. The remedies are numerous for the removal of the sty. The one most commonly used in this section of the country seems to be this one which centers around the age-old couplet. The words of the couplet are not the same in every part of the county; however, all of them mean practically the same thing. The interesting thing in the usage of the couplet is the number of things the sufferer does while pronouncing it. Many sections vary in the type of thing done while repeating the old rime. Perhaps the most widely used remedy is the one mentioned.
Whether the sty leaves as a result of the rime or as a result of the rubbing is a question the patient will not answer. And what the finger which has a ring worn on it has to do with the removal is another thought which creates interest. Some persons maintain that the sty should not be rubbed with the finger. They say that the gold ring should be removed and should be heated by some friction. Rubbing the ring on a piece of wool, or on some woolen garment the person is wearing, will serve as a heat producer. After the ring has become warm, the sty should be stroked with it while the couplet is being said. Various other changes in the small job executed while the couplet is in progress are used. Some say that there is no use to do anything while the rime is being said. Evidently these place their belief in the saying altogether.

126. A very common remedy for the removal of a sty is to rub it with a black cat's tail.

There seems to be some art and skill in the way with which this remedy is used. The sty should be rubbed with the tail nine times according to one usage. After some time the cat will die. If he does not die, the sty will not be removed by this remedy. Some people will not allow a sufferer to use the tail of a cat which the family is fond of. They do not wish to take a chance on the loss of the cat.
127. A sty may be removed by picking up a rock, spitting on it, and replacing it where it was taken from. The side which has been spit upon should be placed up. This is done in order to give the next person passing by a chance to attract the sty.

Yet others say that the rock must cover the saliv placed on it. In this case the moisture of the ground takes the sty off.

128. A sty may be removed by rubbing it with a wedding ring which has been blessed.

Some believe that the ring must be used by the owner; others, that it must be used by the person suffering from the sty.

129. A sty may be removed by stealing a dish-rag from some person who is not a member of the family, rubbing the sty with the cloth, then burying it in some place of secrecy. When the cloth begins to decay, the sty should have been removed.

130. A sty on the eye may be cured by wearing a nutmeg around the neck.

131. A person who has a sty may remove it by walking backwards to a cross-road. When he has reached it, he should spit three times over the right shoulder. The sty will leave him for the next person passing by.

The preceding is the most common way of using this belief. Some people advocate spitting over the shoulders alternately. The writer has tried to find out why a cross-road was desired for the practice of this remedy. No particular reason has been given. Perhaps the cross-road will afford a better opportunity for passers-by. There seems to be no special part of the road to which the sty bearer must go. The approach may be made from any
direction. Some persons use the couplet mentioned
before for a removal of the sty here. This is used instead
of spitting over the shoulder.

132. A sty may be removed by turning around on the heel
three times. This should be done at the cross-
roads and in the section where the cross is made.

133. To remove a sty from the eye let some person take
a yarn string and tie a small loop just over the
sty. This string should be buried secretly. If
the act is completed without any witnesses, the
sty may be removed within forty-eight hours.

134. If one person tells another that he has a sty on
his eye and the second repeats "it is a lie," this
statement will cause a removal of the sty.

135. To cure a ringworm the sufferer should find a green
walnut and remove the rind, being careful to retain
all the stain possible in the rind. Rub the ring
worm with the inside of the rind.

To cure a ringworm is sometimes rather difficult.
The writer has had the privilege of witnessing a remedy
such as the one mentioned, used for the removal of this
ailment. One side of the face and part of the neck were
affected. The directions were carefully carried out.
The stain turned the affected part white as if burned
to a blister. A watery secretion was drawn to the sur-
face of the ringworm, and the patient was hardly able
to turn his head. After a few days the blister dis-
appeared, and the person suffering from this affliction
declared that the affected place was somewhat better, but
the ringworm was still there. This remedy is also
prescribed by some for itch, corns on the feet, and many
other skin eruptions.

136. A ring worm may be cured by allowing some person to rub the affected part with each of his fingers wet with saliva. The one who is rubbing must not see the ringworm.

137. A ring worm may be cured by allowing the place affected to remain perfectly dry for a long while. No type of face cream, lotion, or any other substance which may cause the ring worm to become moistened should be used.

138. To cure a ring worm, borrow some person's thimble, rub it around the place nine times, and then return the thimble to the owner. The ringworm will leave the borrower and go to the lender.

139. For shingles, kill a black cat, cut off the tail, and nail it up over a door. As the tail dries, the shingles will leave.

140. One suffering from shingles should kill a black chicken and saturate the portion of the body which is affected with the blood from the neck of the chicken.

141. Take some of the blood from the cat's body and moisten the shingles with it. This will stop the spread of shingles. It will keep them from meeting.

142. To cure a stone bruise, bind a live toad on the bruise. As the toad dies, the bruise will become less sensitive and finally disappear.

143. For stone bruises get some garlic and beat it until it forms a pasty substance. Cover the bruises with a poultice made from this paste.

144. An onion carried in the pocket will prevent one from having small-pox.

145. Insect stings annoy many persons, sometimes causing severe pain. These may be remedied by chewing tobacco until it is well saturated and then applying it to the wound.

146. Take three kinds of weeds and rub the irritated place as a cure for insect stings.
147. Tobacco smoke is very useful in keeping away mosquitoes.

Hunters have much trouble with mosquitoes during certain seasons. While tobacco is very useful for this purpose, it frightens the game and for this reason is not used so widely.

148. If you keep the jaw tooth of the first hog killed in winter, you will not have toothache.

It has been said by many that there is no worse feeling than when one is suffering from toothache.

There is a wide variety of remedies for toothache.

149. If one who is a non-smoker has toothache and will allow some person to blow smoke into his mouth, it will cure toothache.

150. When one has toothache, if he will pick the gums near the tooth until they bleed, then saturate a long cotton string with the blood and tie it around a dogwood tree just over an incision in the bark, the tooth will cease aching.

151. Secure the tooth of a live mole and rub it over the tooth which is aching, and it will cure the pain.

152. To cure toothache, cut a wart off a horse’s leg and rub it on the gums around the aching tooth.

153. To steal a dish-towel and bury it secretly will stop toothache.

154. If you will pick your tooth with a splinter which has been taken from a tree struck by lightning, it will stop toothache.

155. To stop toothache, stand a person against a green hickory tree and drive a nail into the tree just above the person’s head. The pain is driven out of the tooth into the tree.
156. A cloth heated to a high temperature and applied to the side of the face on which the aching tooth is located will stop the pain.

157. Toothache may be cured by cutting the finger nails on Friday.

158. If a tooth is aching from a cavity in it, the patient should secure a piece of cotton just large enough to fill the cavity, place the cotton in a bottle of camphor and allow it to become saturated, and then push the cotton into the cavity with a toothpick. The cavity should be filled completely with the cotton.

159. To cure toothache, pick the tooth with a poplar peg until it bleeds; then wrap a yarn string around the peg and get some one to bury it. This procedure will bring relief soon.

160. Take the night eye (the rough, scab-like portion on a horse's leg) from the fore-leg of a horse and trim it until it will fit the cavity in the tooth, push it in firmly, and let it remain there. It will kill the nerve in the tooth, thus preventing any further toothache.

161. When a tooth is pulled, take it and place it under a rock or throw it over your left shoulder, and none of your remaining teeth will ache.

162. Rub raw, warm brains of a rabbit on the baby's gums when the baby is teething.

Baby's teething causes many mothers trouble. The author found many remedies for this ailment. The one mentioned is one of the most common ones.

163. To place the brains of a black hen on the gums will give immediate relief.

164. To cause a baby to cut teeth easily, suspend a borrowed egg in a small paper sack from the ceiling.

165. Some sections use an egg shell to rub over the baby's gums. The egg shell should not be broken. Many substances are used for this remedy.
166. For a child to wear amber beads around his neck will help his teething period. Wooden beads are sometimes used to avert this childhood trouble.

167. It will help a child to place burdock around the neck while he is teething. Most people agree on how it is to be used. Some advocate that the nurse make a necklace of it. Place nine pieces of the root around the neck.

168. A piece of money worn about a child’s neck seems to ease the pains of teething. Different pieces of money are used, and some disagree as to the kind of money. Silver, nickel, and gold are used; however, the piece of money used most widely is a quarter of a dollar.

169. A string of wormseed roots placed about the baby’s neck will prevent its teething from being painful.

170. A piece of rubber large enough for the child to chew on placed about the neck will aid in the teething growth.

171. Whole spice soaked in whiskey is used by many for a remedy in teething of children.

172. Train sickness may be prevented by riding with the back in the direction the train is traveling.

Train sickness is an annoyance with which many suffer. We find many remedies for it, almost as many as we have different cases of it; for it seems that the majority of persons have an individual remedy used as a preventive.

173. A pair of soles made of butcher’s brown paper worn next to the feet will prevent train sickness. This will also prevent sea-sickness.

174. If a traveler will place an Irish potato in each of the four corners of his traveling bag, it will prevent train sickness and also sea-sickness.

175. A piece of flannel cloth worn over the chest next to the skin will prevent train sickness.
Sometimes paper is used instead of flannel. It should be a good grade of writing paper, as prescribed by some individuals; others say that a newspaper is the kind to use.

176. One should never wear a hat when he is riding on the train if he is subject to train sickness.
CHAPTER IV
Signs and Omens Concerning Love, Marriage, and Death

The majority of lovers of the present generation would not admit to being superstitious. Yet, after being closely questioned, many of them will be found who have been guilty of performing certain love-charms and divinations which they have grown up with. No doubt, the reader will find some in this list that he has been guilty of using or has heard since the early days of his life.

Who has not heard the statement: "The future should not be anticipated, and therefore an engaged couple should not be photographed together"? This is an age-old saying. It came from our mother country centuries ago. Yet many persons remember it today. The author does not wish to make it appear that the majority of persons would not be photographed together after the engagement. Perhaps ninety-five per cent of them would be pictured together. But out of the high percentage, how many couples would think of the old saying? more than the reader might imagine.

Many beliefs are centered around the time for marriage. Certain months of the year are supposed to bring ill health, little wealth, etc. Many have heard it said that May is

an unlucky month in which to perform a marriage ceremony.
In the days of ancient Greece and Rome the people celebrated
certain occasions by performing various ceremonies.
The memory of the dead was kept alive by a ceremony per-
formed in May. 14 About the end of March and May, res-
pectively, violets and roses were distributed among the
relatives and laid upon the graves or heaped over the urns.
Offerings were made to the gods. Lamps were lighted in the
tombs, and at the tombs the relatives feasted together and
offered food to their dead. 15 Thus it may be seen that
May is to be remembered as a time of sadness. A marriage
ceremony should not be conducted in a mood of this type.
The ancient custom of decorating graves in May has been-
 handed down, since the days of Ovid. Therefore, if one
should marry happily, let him choose some month other than
May.

I. Love

1. An apple peeling that has been removed from the fruit
without a break may be thrown over the left shoulder
to form the initial of your lover. Some maintain that
it will form the initial of the one you are to marry.
If the peeling breaks as it goes over, the act will be
of no avail.

Many divinations concerning love center around the use

14R. W. Wright, loc. cit.
of an apple. The one mentioned above is a very common one.

2. Put an apple seed on each eye. Name each seed. The first that falls shows which one loves you more. He is falling for you.

3. If you can eat a crab-apple without frowning, you can get the one you wish to marry.

4. If you are strong enough to twist an apple in two, you are strong enough to name your life partner.

5. If you will place apple seeds on the grate and name them, the ones that jump show which ones love you.

6. Name apple seeds and shoot them toward the ceiling. The one that hits the ceiling first shows which one loves you.

7. Remove the seeds from an apple. While they are fresh, press them against the forehead. The number of them that stick tells the number of days it will be until you see your sweetheart.

8. Moisten five apple seeds and press them on your face. Name them. The first one to fall off foretells your future partner.

9. If you are able to break an apple in two after some one has named it, the one named loves you.

10. Count apple seeds with the use of this formula or a similar one:

   "One, I love  
   Two, I love  
   Three, I love, I say  
   Four, I love with all my heart  
   Five, I cast away  
   Six, he loves  
   Seven, she loves  
   Eight, both love  
   Nine, he comes  
   Ten, he tarries  
   Eleven, he courts  
   Twelve, they marry."

11. When you spend the night in a strange bedroom, name the corners. The one you are looking at in the morning when you awake is the one who loves you best.
Many people who would scoff at being accused of being
superstitious are guilty of this divination, girls especially.

12. If a girl's apron comes unpinned, her lover has been
taken. If it comes unfastened and falls to the floor,
hersweetheart is thinking about her.

13. If a woman is not able to make a bed well, she is
doomed to marry a worthless man.

14. If you look under a bed, you will never marry.

15. Make up a bed with some person without saying anything.
The first one you shake hands with afterwards will be
the man you will marry. If the one helping you
happens to say something to you, the chance of meeting
the chosen one will be barred.

16. Before going to bed at night, get the Bible and select
a chapter that has as many verses as your sweetheart
is years old, memorize the last, put the Bible under
your pillow, and go to sleep. If you dream of the
person during the night, it is certain that the same
will be your husband or wife, as the case might be.

17. Name each corner bed post when you retire at night.
The one your right hand is pointing toward in the
morning will be the one whom you will marry. If the
hand is not pointing in the direction of any post,
the one first pointed toward will serve in the same
way.

18. If you can touch your beauty spot (a spot made by
soot or some black substance) on your face, it is a
sign that your sweetheart loves you.

19. If you find a bird's nest empty, you will never marry.
If it has one egg in it, you will marry before the
year is out; if two eggs are in it, you will marry
within two years, etc.

20. If you will sleep with the Bible under your head for
three successive nights, you will dream of your
future mate.

21. One should not take the last portion from the dish
unless invited. You will not be married during that
year if you do. It is better to take the next to the
last portion. In this case, you are sure to get a
handsome husband.
22. If you take the last biscuit from a plate, you will be a rich widower or widow.

23. If a bird flies into the house, the one who first discovers it will marry within a year. The husband or wife will come from the direction the bird is first seen in.

Some maintain that the dwelling place of the husband or wife will be designated by the kind of bird; for example, a lark represents a country person, and a robin a town person.

24. Get the bow of ribbon out of a boy's hat or cap and put it into your vanity case. The first boy that you cross water with thereafter will be the one you are to marry.

25. If you burn your bread, your sweetheart is angry with you.

26. A girl will never be married who allows her bread to burn while it is baking.

27. The number of birthday candles left unextinguished after you have blown once shows how many years your wedding is off. If you extinguish all with one breath, you will marry within a year.

28. If you take a piece of the top layer of a cake without the layers in accompaniment, you will never marry.

29. If a girl can jump over a broom placed in the seats of two chairs, she will marry within a year.

30. If she sweeps under a person's feet, he will never marry.

31. A woman who loves a cat will be an old maid.

32. If you would know your husband's profession, count the buttons on your garment, thus:

"Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief, Doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief."

The name of the profession you are uttering when you
touch the last button will be the one your husband will follow.

This is a good divination with which to prove that someone is superstitious. Probably the reader himself has seen persons engaged in the practice of this sign. Perhaps the persons did not believe there was any truth in it, yet the mere use of it shows that ancient custom and belief is still practiced.

33. If a butterfly settles on you, you will get a new sweetheart.

34. Characteristics of your future husband or wife may be revealed by telling your fortune with cards. The deck used for this purpose should not have been used before.

35. A woman may find her husband by counting a hundred red ties. The man wearing the one numbering one hundred will be her husband.

36. If a girl soaks bread or cake in her coffee, she is doomed to be an old maid.

37. If your cheeks burn, your sweetheart is talking about you.

38. Put a four-leafed clover in your shoe when you retire at night, and you will see your future mate in dreamland.

39. When you meet a team of white horses, name five colors of horses. The person riding a horse the color of the one last named will be the one you are to marry.

40. "If you wear red, you will never wed."

41. If a single person looks into a coffee pot, he will never marry.

42. Touch ten white horses, then the first person you see wearing a red necktie you will marry.

43. Count ninety-nine white horses and a white mule.
The next person you shake hands with will be the one who is to be your life partner.

44. If the first butterfly you see during the season is white, you will go to a wedding before the year is out. If the butterfly lights on you, it will be your own wedding.

45. If you find an even number of grains in a row on an ear of corn, you will have a happy and successful marriage.

46. If you wear a yellow garment, or a yellow flower, you have a jealous disposition.

47. Cut seven initials on the ground and put a grain of corn on each initial. Turn a hen loose near the corn. The grain she picks up first will represent the name of the person you are destined to marry.

48. If a girl will sit on the ground, reach behind her, pick up a handful of dirt, and find a hair in it, she will know the color of her future husband's hair. If a hair is not found in the first handful, try a second time.

49. If a cook bakes rough cornbread, her husband's face will be rough.

50. Pluck the petals from a daisy, repeating these words as you do so: "He loves me, he loves me not." The words you are uttering as you pluck the last petal will tell you the fortune.

51. Since the daisy is not conveniently reached at all times during the year, girls may use a straw from the drug store. This straw can be pressed together easily between the finger and thumb. Begin at one end and press firmly about one-half inch of the straw, then turn it a half turn and press another portion of it. Keep it turned so that each part pressed is done so at right angles to the preceding. Repeat the same words as in the use of the daisy. The words you are saying when you reach the other end will reveal the fortune.

The time which the older women used for courting, wherein a stroll was taken through the daisies once in a while, is spent by the modern girl around the drug store.
For this reason, it was necessary for her to find a new fortune teller. The straw with which the refreshment is drawn into the mouth has a spiral intrenchment running from one end of it to the other. Modern girls, you would not admit being superstitious, but you are using the same belief that your mothers and grandmothers used, only with different materials.

52. If a girl dreams that she eats a pickle, an old bachelor will kiss her within three days.

53. If a dog follows you, coax him to you. He will bring you a handsome husband.

54. If a girl allows her dish-water to come to the boiling point, she will not marry for more than one year.

55. To learn how many children there will be in your home, blow a dandelion ball. The number of seeds left of the ball will indicate your number of children.

56. If a girl drops her dish-cloth while using it, it is a sign her sweetheart will come before night.

57. If you are the first to sleep under a new quilt, the hero or heroine of your dream will be your partner in the bonds of marriage.

58. If you give a black cat a piece of pickle and it eats it, the first man the cat goes to will be the one fate has determined for you.

59. If you go in at one door and out another, you will catch a new sweetheart, regardless of the proceeding being a bad-luck sign.

60. To test whether or not your lover is true, tie a knot in a cedar limb. If it grows, you may rest assured that his love is sincere.

61. If you swallow the heart of a wild fowl, you will be permitted to choose the man you want.
62. If you walk across a cellar door, you will never marry.

63. When your ears burn, name each one of them for a person of the opposite sex; the one which ceases to burn first shows the one who loves you the better.

64. If a chair falls back when you leave it, you will not marry for more than a year.

65. If you turn a chair over, begin saying the letters of the alphabet. The letter you reach as you turn the chair up will be the initial of the person whom you are to marry.

66. When you turn over a chair, if someone begins to count, the number reached before you pick up the chair will designate the number of years before you are engaged in matrimony.

67. If your left ear burns, your lover is thinking of you.

68. If someone tells you his right eye itches and you do not pass the statement on, you will never marry.

69. The quivering or twitching of your eye is a sign your lover is thinking of you.

70. If you can make a good fire, you will make a good husband or wife.

71. Name a lighted fire. If it burns, the person named loves you.

72. If your fire fails to burn, your lover is not busy.

73. If your fire burns with a red blaze, your mate will be a brunette; if with a white blaze, he will be a blonde.

74. If a girl builds a good fire, her sweetheart loves her.

75. Take an eyelash from your eye, press it firmly between your finger and thumb. Allow some person to name the finger and thumb, using names of the opposite sex. Release the finger and thumb, and the one to which the eyelash clings will be the one who loves you better.
76. If a boy wears a flower to school, he is hunting a girl.

77. Pull an eyelash, name your lover, then blow the lash away. If you see the eyelash no more, your lover loves you.

78. If you have two forks at your plate, someone is going to take your girl away from you.

79. If you crook your little finger while holding a cup, fate has determined you to be an old maid or bachelor.

80. If you wear a flower with the stem up, you are engaged.

81. The number of times you can pop your fingers shows the number of sweethearts you will have.

82. If the first of the family marries well, the rest will marry well; but if the first marriage is a poor one, the rest will be poor.

83. If you can make the first and fourth fingers touch over the backs of the other two, you can marry anyone you please and please anyone you get.

84. When you are fishing, name your bait. If you catch a fish, your lover is true.

85. Pull a hair through your fingers. It will curl. In whatever direction the hair points, your sweetheart lives.

86. If a girl spills flour while she is baking, her husband will be a drunkard.

87. If you hear a hawk calling, your sweetheart is near.

88. If a child is held down by a hair across his nose, the first word he says will be the first word he will say after his marriage.

89. If you have the letter "M" in your hand, you will marry rich.

90. If you find a hair in the heel of your stocking, it will be the color of your mate's hair.
91. The accidental crossing of hands as four people shake hands means that one of them will marry soon.

92. If you wish your boy friend to love you, pull a hair from his head and pull one from your own head.bury the two hairs side by side, and the boy will love you forever.

93. Hang up a hair pin which you have found and name it for your lover. If anyone takes it from its place before the week is spent, she will be successful in taking your lover.

94. If you will wear a lock of your sweetheart's hair in your clothing, he will love no other. Every other things are used as an assurance against such, especially a photo of your lover.

95. If you find a hairpin, it is a sign that you will find a lover.

96. If you will place a hairpin in your shoe, the first man you meet wearing a red tie will be your husband.

97. Make a lover's knot of a handkerchief and pull the ends after they have been named. The one that stays in most tightly is the one who loves you most.

98. Hallowe'en is a good time to test the sincerity of your sweetheart's love. Name an apple and suspend it by a string. If you can bite it, you are beloved by the person whose name you gave to the apple.

99. If you find a lilac blossom with five petals and swallow it, you can marry any person that you desire.

100. If someone steps on the heel of your shoe, the person so doing is trying to get your sweetheart.

101. When you find a horseshoe, pick it up and count the nails in it. The number left in the shoe will be the number of years before you are engaged in matrimony.

102. Tell your fortune by writing the name of your bees parallel with your own name. Draw a line through the common letters. Name over the words, "love," "friendship," "hate," "friendship," "groom," "marriage," on the remaining letters.

103. If a person of the opposite sex steps on your heel,
you will not be married for seven years.

104. Put a love vine on a bush, fence, etc.; if it grows, your sweetheart loves you.

105. If you kiss your lover over the back gate, you will never kiss him again.

106. Never kiss a girl on the nose; it will cause trouble.

107. Name two hog bristles on a hot shovel. If they turn toward each other, the persons named will marry.

108. Name two holly leaves and throw them into the fire. The one that pops first has the name of the one that loves you better.

109. If someone climbs a ladder and cannot climb farther, count the number of steps ahead; this number will represent the number of years before his marriage.

110. Burn a match on one end, hold the burnt end down, catch it, and let the other end burn. If the match does not break, your sweetheart loves you. If it remains red for sometime on the last end burned, your future mate will have red hair.

111. If you find a four-leafed clover on the first of May, you will be successful in winning the love of the person you desire.

112. On the first of May if a girl goes out walking and finds a snail within its shell, she will marry a man with a house. If she sees a snail crawling, she will marry a man without a house.

113. If you look at a mirror over someone else’s shoulder, you will get a sweetheart, perhaps the one whose shoulder you are looking over.

114. If you will sleep with a mirror under your pillow for three consecutive nights, on the third night you will dream of the one you are to marry.

115. Put some mistletoe over the door. The first one who walks under it will be your future mate.

116. Name one leaf each of mistletoe for a boy and a girl. Put them on a warm stove. If they hop toward each other, the couple will marry; if they do not, there will be no marriage between them.
117. "New moon, true moon, a lover free,
    If he be a true lover, send him unto me;
    Tell me the color of his hair and of his eyes,
    And whether he be witty or whether he be wise."

Charms or rhymes are often used to learn characteristics of your lover. Many different ones are used. The writer found the one mentioned the most popular.

118. Write the names of eleven boys on separate pieces of paper. Use one piece that has no name on it. Place these bits of paper in small mud balls, and throw them into a bucket of water. The one that comes to the top first contains the name of the person who loves you best, and the one whom you will marry. If the one containing the blank piece comes up, you will never marry.

This is a very good way to find out who loves you.

119. To test the sincerity of your beau, bend a stalk of mullein in the direction of your lover's home. If it grows up straight again, you may be sure of your sweetheart's love.

120. If there is an old maid in the family, there will be one in the next generation.

121. If you have a white mark on your little fingernail, or the one next to it, you have a sweetheart.

122. Although cutting the nails on Sunday is bad luck, it is a sure way of getting a chance to see your sweetheart; for if you cut your nails on Sunday, your lover will appear before Monday.

123. If you eat onions on Saturday, you will not see your lover on Sunday.

124. Some maintain that the number of white spots one has on his finger nails represents the number of lies told by that person; others say that one has as many sweethearts as he has white spots on his fingernails.

125. When one's nose bleeds, it is a true sign that he is deeply in love.
126. Before retiring, place under your pillow slips containing the names of three boys. Arrange them in such a way that you don't know where any particular name is located. Throw out one before you go to sleep. Throw another in the morning before you arise. The one that is left is the name of the person who is to be your life partner.

127. If you take the last piece of pie on a plate, you will get a handsome husband or wife.

128. Place the name of several admirers on slips of paper and put them into a pan of water. The one that comes to the top quickest is the one who is deepest in love with you.

129. The first letter between two lovers should never be written with a pencil. They will never be married to each other.

130. Write the names of suitors on pieces of paper. Roll them up and drop them into a pan of water. Leave them over night. The one that is still curled is the one you will marry. If they all become unrolled, the person will never marry.

131. If one eats pickles, he is in love.

From this belief we get the statement: "Take a pickle and settle your love."

132. Put the names of beaux in the corners and in the middle of a rectangle. On the reverse side have someone to write these words: "love," "hate," "court," "kiss," "marry." Read the name and then turn the reverse side to find out the relation existing between you and the persons mentioned on the board.

133. Take a sofa pillow and push the corners in. Name each corner. Hit the center of the pillow with your fist, and the corners which remained closed are the ones who loved you best.

134. If you can walk seven railroad rails without speaking, you will marry the first one of the opposite sex you meet.
135. If you eat the point of an apple first, you will be an old bachelor or an old maid.

136. If you pick up a pin pointed toward you or with its side toward you, you will see your lover that day.

137. When it is raining, walk backward nine steps; under your heel you will find a hair. It will be the color of the hair of the one that you are to be successful in marrying.

138. Pick up a pin that is lying at right angles toward you, and you will be kissed by your lover.

139. If a woman can walk eighteen rails on a railroad track, she can get any man she wants.

140. If, while trying on some ready-to-wear garment, a pin is caught in it, you will not marry that year.

141. If any one fails to recognize you, you will be married.

142. If a pin is barely sticking into your garment, strike it and begin repeating the letters of the alphabet. The letter the pin drops to the floor on is the initial letter of your future mate.

143. After a group of girls, attending a quilting party, finish the work, the new quilt should be removed from the stand. Place a girl at each corner; catch the house cat and throw him in on the quilt. The quilters should toss the cat up and down for some time. When the quilt is brought to rest, the cat will run out by the one who is to be married first.

144. When you see the first robin of spring, sit down on a rock, take off your left stocking, and if you find a hair in it, your sweetheart will call to see you within two days.

145. When you see a redbird flying to the right, throw a kiss to it, and he will take it to your sweetheart. If he is flying to the left, do not throw the kiss to him. This will serve as a kiss thrown by your sweetheart which will be carried to someone else.
146. Place on your finger the ring of someone who has been successfully engaged and think of your favorite color. The next man that you meet will be your future husband.

147. Turn twenty-five set rings on persons' fingers. Observe carefully the color of the stone in the last one turned. The next man you meet wearing a tie of that color will be your future mate.

148. When you make a rhyme in your everyday conversation or hear someone else make one, kiss your hand, and you will see your sweetheart in twenty-four hours.

149. If you meet a redbird while you are walking, the next person you meet will be your mate.

150. When you see a cardinal, make a rhyme:

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine,
    The next pretty (girl, or boy) I see is mine."

151. When you accidentally make a rhyme in talking, count the number of words in the two rhyming lines. The number of words represents the number of the letter in the alphabet with which the initial letter of your future mate begins.

152. If someone else's engagement ring is placed on the finger of a single woman, she will never own an engagement ring of her own.

Sections of this county differ in opinion as to the fortune told by an engagement ring. A preceding belief encouraged the placing of an engagement ring on the finger of an unmarried person. The one performing this act would find her future husband.

153. If your shoe comes untied, your sweetheart is thinking of you.

154. If your shoe string comes untied, accidentally, and you step on it, your sweetheart is angry with you.
155. Take the petal from a fully bloomed rose and give it the name of your sweetheart. Fold its sides carefully, thus forming a tiny air pocket. Push it quickly to your forehead. If it pops, it is a sure sign that your beau loves you.

156. When you are on a hiking trip, if a briar catches in your skirt, your sweetheart is thinking of you.

157. If an unmarried person turns salt over on the table, he will not marry that year.

158. If you wish to see the one whom you are to marry, place your shoes under the bed in the shape of "T" and do not speak before you go to sleep. You will meet your husband in dreamland or see him at some time the following day.

159. To see two snakes at once is a sign of a wedding in your immediate family.

160. If you sneeze before breakfast, it is a sign you will see your sweetheart before Saturday night.

161. Count seven stars for seven nights, and on the seventh night place a paper star, with the name of three suitors on it, under your pillow. The name you dream about will be your future husband.

162. If a girl drops a table spoon, it is a sign that her sweetheart is coming.

163. If you find a spider crawling on your neck, it is a sign you have a lover unknown to you. If you kill the spider, you will never know who the lover was.

164. Some persons say that it is good luck to sneeze three times in succession; others say that it is a sign one will never marry.

165. If in stealing something to eat you get caught, it is prophetic that you will beg after your marriage.

166. To sit on a kitchen table is a sign one will never marry.
167. If you bump into a stranger, your husband or wife will be someone whom you have never met.

168. In an effort to sew, if your thread knots, name it for your lover. If he loves you, the knot will come untied.

169. If a person stumbles up steps, he will not marry that year.

170. The person who remains at the table longest will be the first to get married.

171. If you sit on a table with one of the opposite sex, you will marry that person.

172. Drop the end of a stick into the water. If fewer than five drops of water fall from it upon removal, your sweetheart will marry you. If it drops more than five, the number of drops will represent the number of years before your marriage.

172. Put the tea leaves from your cup on the back of your hand and slap it with the other hand, not on the leaves. If at one blow they fall from the hand, you will marry within one year. If they do not fall after one blow, the number of years from your marriage will be indicated by the number of blows it takes to remove the leaves.

174. If you find twin cucumbers, apples, peaches, etc., your sweetheart is thinking of you.

175. If in attempting to take a drink you spill water, your sweetheart is thinking of you.

176. When two lovers are walking, if they walk on opposite sides of a tree, post, or some other object which might cut them in twain, they will never marry.

Have you seen this belief put into effect?

177. If a girl wears a wasp nest in her clothing, her lover will be more sincere with her.

178. If your second toe is longer than your great toe, you will be a henpecked husband.
179. If you raise an umbrella over you in the house, you will never marry. Some say that you will be an old maid or bachelor.

180. If you find twin berries on a blackberry vine, place them under your bed at night, and you will dream of your future mate.

181. To discern which of two persons will marry first, pull the breast-bone (pulley-bone) of a chicken. The one who gets the shorter piece will marry first. Unmarried couples and engaged couples should not perform this act.

182. Place a slice of wedding cake under your bed. Write six names on strips of paper and put in one strip blank. Draw one from the list upon arising each morning. After six mornings, completing this act, the slip of paper left will prophesy your destiny. If the blank strip is left, you have not met your future husband or wife, as yet.

183. If you are caught in a whirlwind, you will receive an invitation to a wedding soon.

184. If you marry young, you will have a pathway of trouble facing you.

185. "Happy is the bride the sun shines on, weeping for the bride the rain falls on."

186. If you wear a wedding veil in a play, you will never marry.

187. If you marry in June, your husband will do all in his power to satisfy you.

188. It is good luck to let a bride or bridegroom wear something of yours. This means that you will be the next to marry.

189. If a sister of a bride wears the bride's garter after the ceremony, she will be the next one in that family to enjoy the bonds of matrimony.

190. "If you marry when the year is new Your mate will always be loving, kind, and true."
191. If it rains on your wedding day, you will have to work always hard for a living. A wedding should not be postponed, however, for this is a sure sign of bad luck.

192. Although a spider is a dreaded creature, it should not be considered so by a bride. Such an incident prophesies a blessed married life. If a bride passes through a spider's web as she goes to the marriage ceremony, she will be satisfied with her life partner.

Married on Tuesday, married for wealth.
Married on Wednesday, the best day of all.
Married on Thursday, married for losses.
Married on Friday, married for crosses.
Married on Saturday, no luck at all.
Married on Sunday, followed love's call."

How color is prophetic:

"If you marry in blue, your love will be true.
If you marry in green, you are ashamed to be seen.
If you marry in gray, you'll go far away.
If you marry in pink, be is not what you think.
If you marry in brown, you'll live out from town.
If you marry in yellow, your're jealous of your fellow.
If you marry in red, you would be better off dead.
If you marry in pearl, you'll live in a whirl.
If you marry in black, you are taking the wrong track.
If you marry in white, the nuptials are right."

194. A marriage ceremony performed in time of a thunder storm is indicative of a stormy married life.

195. If a bride wears "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue, and a four-leaved clover in the heel of her shoe," she may be assured of a successful marriage regardless of all other signs and omens.

196. The falling of snow on the wedding day is an assurance of pleasure and happiness.

197. If the bride will place a piece of money in the heel of her left shoe, she will always be wealthy.
106. The bride and groom should be careful in their relation to each other on the day of the ceremony. The affair should be so arranged that the bride and groom do not see each other until the time for the wedding. If they see each other even one hour early, bad luck will result from the union. Though this is regarded as a time of great joy, weeping, on the part of the bride, is in sacred order. Such indicates good luck in the future. The affair should be performed in the full of the moon for good luck.

109. If the maker of the bride's trousseau pricks her finger, so that a drop of blood falls on it, the bride will never be married in that trousseau.

200. It is considered bad fortune to give a bride as a wedding gift something made of gold.

201. There should be no mirror in a room in which there is a wedding performed, for the first unmarried woman who sees herself in it will die in a short time.

202. A bride who puts a pinch of salt in her pocket and wears it to the altar will always be blessed with happiness.

203. The bride should remove her wedding ring as soon as to put it back before leaving the church. After it has been removed this time and replaced, it should never be taken from the hand again.

204. A newly married pair should avoid any position before a mirror. A reflection of themselves in this time will cause severe bad luck.

206. For a bride to look into a mirror as the last act in preparing herself for the occasion is a sign of utter disappointment.

209. A girl should marry no man whose last name is the same as her own. Also, in changing the name, she should be sure that the initial letter of her new name is changed.

"To change the name and not the letter. You change for worse and not for better."
207. It is good luck for a bride to use the handkerchief of another bride provided that the latter has experienced a successful marriage.

208. It is customary for rice and old shoes to be thrown at the bride and groom. The rice is to increase the probability of their having children. The old shoes prevent any bad luck or evil influences developing as a result of the marriage.

209. It is considered lucky for the bride and bridegroom to stand on a white fur rug while the marriage ceremony is being conducted.

210. A physician should never accompany a wedding. If he does, someone present will die within a year.

211. Most of the wearing apparel of the bride should be carefully protected from any type of damage. The veil proves an exception to this. To tear the veil accidentally is representative of the best luck.

212. If the ceremony is performed in a wooden building, or a building with wooden floors, the pair should not stand so as to face at right angles with the boards of the floor. This is highly prophetic of bad luck.

213. The bridegroom should make an effort to place a miniature horseshoe in the pocket of the wedding suit. This is sure to bring luck.

214. If a padlock is locked as a couple are pronounced man and wife, they will not live together longer than two years.

The author came in contact with one person who was a profound believer in the superstition just mentioned. He claimed that he heard the lock click in his own ceremony, that he knew why it was done, and the one who did it.

215. The bride's veil should not be shown to anyone outside the immediate family. She should be careful when trying it on. No one should be allowed to witness this occasion.
216. The hands of the clock are thought to predict the success or failure of a marriage. If the couple are married as the hands go up, they will rise in the world. If the hands are in a downward movement, they will go down in the world.

217. If the bride wears orange blossoms or uses them in wedding decoration, good luck will follow.

218. The bride's bunch of roses is caught by the one who will marry next, provided they are caught by a single person.

219. Some persons take pride in keeping their clothes; others say that there will never be any luck for a couple until the wedding garments are worn out.

220. To find anything belonging to the bride or bridegroom lost while going to the ceremony is indicative of good luck.

221. If the wedding ring is dropped during the ceremony, it signifies that the match is not the correct one, and the bride and bridegroom will soon drift apart.

222. A bride and bridegroom should not part on the day they are married. This is a sign that a large part of their lives will be spent away from each other.

223. If the bride steps on the threshold of her new home when entering it for the first time, she will not be satisfied with her married life.

224. Kiss the bride after the ceremony has taken place and before the newly made husband has had a chance to kiss her, and you may be assured of a marriage yourself. It will take place within a short time.

II. Death

1. Some people say that the one who removes the coins from a dead person's eyes will be the next one to die.

Death is dreadful in any family. There are many peculiar ideas held in regard to it. In witnessing
a death scene, one feels different from what he feels in any other. It is not a time to think in a critical way of characteristics and actions of people; yet it is a time of interest to the student of folklore. Many examples of superstitious character are put in view in some of our death and burial affairs. A large number of people will not participate in the above-mentioned act of removing the coins. The reader, no doubt, has witnessed an example of this type.

2. It is very bad luck to wear any of the clothes belonging to a person in mourning. If you do such, one in your family will die at once.

3. When a person dies, his picture begins to fade. All pictures of one who is dying or who has been dead for only a few minutes should be turned with the face toward the wall.

4. When one sees a star fall, it is a sign someone in the family will die soon.

5. If you put the clothes of a living person on a dead person, the former will die before the year is out.

6. If you give a pin to go on a corpse, death will come to you.

7. When a person dies, his picture will fade. This method is used to ascertain the condition of one who has left home and whom no one has been able to locate since his departure. When the picture begins to fade, search should not be continued.

8. To see a shooting star is a sign of death in the family but not necessarily the immediate family.

9. If the nose of a murdered person bleeds, it is a sign that the murderer is in the room.
10. A death in the family leaves the door open. Some other member of the family will die soon.

11. If you shudder without a reason, someone is walking over your grave, that is, the space that your grave will occupy.

12. If a person who is near death calls the name of someone in the family, the last one called will be the next one in the family to die.

13. In a time of death the mirror in the room should be covered and the clock should be stopped. If either of these is neglected, something disastrous will happen.

14. If a man dies hard, it is a sign he is to spend eternity in hell.

15. One should never grieve over the death of a pet. This is sure to bring another death in the family.

16. All portraits in the room where there is a corpse should be turned to the wall, especially if there is one of some deceased person who is a member of the immediate family from which the present corpse is taken. If this is not done, another member of the family will be called very soon.

17. Many persons are afraid to touch a dead body. This fear may be removed if the person will touch one dead person. If you will touch the body of a dead person, you will never worry about him, nor will you ever be haunted by his spirit.

18. It is an extreme bad-luck sign for a sick person to pick up and catch at the cover. This is a sign that he is picking for something to save his life with. Many consider such a sign of death.

19. To be cut by a razor which has shaved a dead man foretells your own death—soon.

20. If large drops of rain fall, there is a death somewhere. Rainstorms generally precede or follow the death of a very old person.
21. A murderer always dies with his boots on or
dies a hard death. If a murderer dies a natural,
quiet death, the killing of his enemy was
justified.

22. If the body of a corpse does not become stiff,
another member of the family will die very soon.

23. It is indicative of death in the family a second
time if a horse which is drawing the hearse
becomes frightened.

24. Thunder shortly after a burial indicates that the
soul of the deceased has gone to heaven.

25. If a corpse gets stiff and then limber, it is a
sign there will be another death in the family.

26. One should never count the vehicles in a funeral
procession. It may mean the number which will
accompany your own procession and at an early
date.

27. It is considered good luck to be buried on a rainy
day. The deceased will go to heaven.

28. An approaching death is indicated by a sight of
the will-o'-the-wisp.

29. The soul of a deceased person will go to heaven
if a turtle dove flies up near the grave.

30. A coffin containing a corpse should not pass
through any room other than the one in which the
person dies. It may pass into another room
provided that it is removed through the same
entrance. It may pass through a hall.

31. If a body is buried facing the sunset, it is a
sign that the soul will be lost at judgment.
The feet should always be turned toward the east
in order that the body may face the coming of the
Master at the Resurrection.

32. It is bad luck to point your finger at a funeral
procession. The same is true if one crosses a
funeral procession without turning his back to it.
33. If, after a grave is dug, it is left open over night, or if rain falls into it, there will be another death in the family for which the grave was intended.

34. In taking a casket from a house, be sure to take the feet of it out first. If the head is taken out first, and the casket then carried into another house, a death from the second house will occur soon.

For this reason many people will not allow a strange corpse or the corpse of anyone outside the family to be brought inside their home.

35. One should avoid stepping over a grave. This means that you will be the next to be buried in that cemetery.

36. For a black cat to cross in front of a funeral procession indicates that there will be another death in the family within a period of one month.
CHAPTER V
BELIEFS CONCERNING THE HUMAN BODY, DRESS

One of the oldest forms of superstitious belief is that dealing with the human body. We may trace the evidentiary grounds of belief in this case back to certain sources which may be either fallible or infallible. Two of these sources are memory and testimony. Memory must be carefully regarded. It goes along with experience, and by the experience of certain individuals and the consequences of those experiences have arisen many of our beliefs dealing with the human body. Testimony must be trusted if language is not to be useless and social co-operation impossible. Memory is valid only so far as it truthfully represents original experience, and testimony only so far as it presents a valid memory, correctly reported.

1. A ringing in the ear foretells a death in the family.

The human body well affords itself to superstitious belief. In the first place, we are sure to notice things which happen to our physical being, whether those things be helpful or harmful. The above belief has had a rather logical origin. It is easily observed by the sufferer, and since the ringing sound imitates that of wind church bells, it is very easy to interpret the meaning of this ringing sensation.
2. One who is able to touch the beauty spot on the face will go abroad some time in the near future.

This is one of the oldest beliefs that have come on down to the present generation. There are many rewards promised to the one who is able to touch this spot. Some maintain that to touch this spot indicates a sincere love on the part of your lover. In one part of this county, the above belief receives the interpretation that one will be successful in whatever work he is pursuing, if he is able to touch his beauty spot.

3. Small ears indicate stinginess; large ears signify generosity. If the ears are small and rest closely on the head, they are indicative of a mean, over-bearing disposition.

The ears are widely considered for their indications of stinginess or generosity.

4. If your right ear burns or is red, some one is speaking well of you; but if the left ear burns or is red, someone is speaking ill of you.

One can prolong or stop the spell by doing the following: since the burning of the right ear indicates compliments, the victim may wish to encourage them. He can do so by pulling the right ear with the right hand and saying, "Talk more, talk more." To break the spell of the uncomplimentary remarks, he should pull the left ear with the right hand saying, "Talk less, talk less." One should pull the ear nine times in each case.

5. To prolong or stop the spell moisten the forefinger with saliva, touch the ear on the part burning, and
repeat this charm:

"Speak good, speak bad, if it's good, may good
repay you.
if it's bad, may the devil delay you."

6. If your right ear turns, a man is talking about you;
if your left ear turns, a woman is talking about you.

7. To stop someone from talking about you, put saliva on
the ear. If the remarks are unkind, it will not stop
burning; if they are kind, it will stop immediately.

8. If the ear is long, the owner will have a long life;
if short, he will die young.

9. To see sunshine through one's ear is a reliable indica-
tion of rascality on the part of the possessor.

10. If your ear itches, you will hear a secret.

11. If you join your hands behind your head, someone in
your immediate family will die soon.

Sometimes this is only an indication of illness for
some member of the family.

12. If the eyebrows meet, the possessor has a jealous
disposition.

Eyebrows are highly considered for their power of reveal-
ing a person's disposition.

13. A good indication of a murderer is the growing together
of one's eyebrows.

14. Heavy eyebrows indicate a strong, deep mind on the part
of the owner; especially, if they do not come together.
If the brows are heavy and come together, they signify
deep thinking but not of an unaltering type. They
indicate the ability to think deeply but in a confused
manner. If the eyebrows are heavy and do not come
together, they signify deep thinking in well-regulated
channels. The possessor is able to think for himself
without being dragged into the opinion of others. One
possessing this characteristic is not jealous or con-
cerred. He can be trusted in any type of environment.
If the eyebrows meet, you will be rich.
Idea are different in regard to some of the previous
statements. Some believe that if your eyebrows do not
meet you will be rich; also, that meeting eyebrows are
significant of deep thinking ability.
15. An itching nose indicates that one will become
immensely wealthy.

An itching nose indicates a great variety of things.
16. For the nose to itch is a sign someone is coming.
To make sure of the arrival, rub the nose on wood.
17. "If by chance, your nose itches,
"Someone's coming with a hole in his breeches."
18. "If your nose itches,
"Kiss a fool, meet a stranger,
"Fall in love or be in danger."
19. If the right side of the nose itches, a man is coming;
if the left side, a woman is coming. If the itching
on either side is accompanied by itching on the end,
the visitor will be riding a horse.
20. If your right eye itches, you will get a letter.
21. If your right eye itches, you are going to be pleased.
22. If your right eye itches, you will get money.
23. It is maintained by some that for the right eye
to itch is a warning of bad luck.

As in the case of many other beliefs, again we find
a difference of opinion.
24. If your left eye itches, it is a sign of ill luck.
25. A clear conscience is represented by clear eyes.
26. The disposition of a person is indicated by the
amount of white visible in the eye, especially of a
Negro. If a large amount of the white of one's eye
shows, it indicates cruelty, meanness, etc.
27. Reward of a girl with a dimple in her chin. This is a sign that Cupid has touched her.

"If in your chin,
Any lover you will win."

28. It brings bad luck to one to see a cross-eyed person. The spell of this may be averted by crossing the fingers.

29. A cross-eyed person or a red-haired person betokens ill fortune. Upon meeting either, cross your fingers and spit over the cross.

30. If the upper lip itches, it will be kissed by a tall person; if the lower lip itches, it will be kissed by a short person.

31. For the lip to itch signifies the coming of a man with a mustache. Ordinarily this person is one of old age.

32. If a bright flame is produced from the combing of your hair when thrown into the fire, you are sure of a long, healthy life; if, however, the fire extinguishes your hair has been thrown into it, your life will come soon.

33. If you comb your hair after nightfall, you will get a whipping next day.

34. "If you comb your hair after dark,
It will bring sorrow to your heart."

35. Do not comb the hair after sunset; this will make one forgetful.

36. Do not comb the hair with a comb in which there have been some hairs left. To do so will bring death to the latter user sooner than to the one who first used it.

37. If two people of different families comb each other's hair, the mother of the younger will die.

38. Do not allow anyone to begin combing your hair and permit you to finish it. Good luck will surely ensue.
39. If two persons are allowed to comb your hair at the same time, you will die before either of them.

40. Some say that the younger of the two who are combing will be the first one to die.

41. A grandmother can bring the desired length to her granddaughter's hair by taking a lock of it into her orchard and fastening it in the bark of a tree. The girl's hair will grow as long as the height to which the hair is fastened.

42. Tangles in the hair show that rats have slept in it on the preceding night.

43. A person who is becoming bald-headed can stop such by placing some of his hair under a rock the next time he has it cut.

44. If you find a hair in your mouth, it is a sign you will soon kiss a fool.

45. To rub your hands through the hair of a negro will bring rich returns.

46. If you will keep a lock of your lover's hair, he will forever be true to you.

47. If a feather is in your hair, there is a letter in the post office for you. It is from an unknown person in a distant town.

48. Women with pale, blond hair, or an ashy color, are loving, impulsive, fickle. They are not to be depended upon before marriage, but they make excellent companions.

This may, in part, bear out the statement: "Gentlemen prefer blondes—but, they marry brunettes."

49. Dark brown hair indicates loyalty on the part of women. They possess a great deal of sentiment and are easily affected. They enjoy keenly and suffer in proportion.

50. Women with fine, black hair are high-strung. Those with coarse, black hair are nearly always ill-tempered.
51. Hair of dark brown or dark chestnut hair is more likely to turn white in old age than is hair of red or blonde color, especially if they have a high temper, and less likely to turn white if they have a high temper.

52. The disposition of a woman can be tested by her hair. Take one hair from her head, place it between the nails of the thumb and the first finger, press the nails firmly together, and pull the other hand through the hair lengthwise through them. If the hair curls up, she is high-tanned. The tighter the curl, the higher the temper.

53. Men possessing fine, straight hair are doubly sure to be vicious.

54. Men whose hair turns gray at an early age in life are generally good fellows. They are nervous, to some extent; but they are sympathetic, brave, and honorable. Some believe that premature gray hair is inherited from ancestors who were naturally gray-haired at an early age.

55. Men with fine, light hair are intelligent and conscientious. They are generally selfish, especially if they do not marry until late in life.

56. Men with fine, brown hair, light or dark, make the best husbands. They are nearly always of a pleasing disposition. They are quick, thoughtful, and less likely to be selfish than extremely light-haired or extremely dark-haired men. They are generally excellent business men. They are sincere in love, very affectionate, and well controlled emotionally.

57. For either male or female to possess red hair is an indication of fiery temper. Such persons are usually competent business managers of high emotional control.

58. Many times fright may cause one's hair to turn white. Worry will do the same.

59. A hair on your shoulder is an indication of a letter in the box for you.

60. A test for success in worldly affairs is to like
three hair. F rom your head, lie flat on your back, and allow someone to draw the hairs tightly across your nose. If you are able to break them in aris-
ing, you are to be depended upon for success.

The preceding sounds very simple; but upon trying it, many find it extremely difficult.

61. Many secrets are believed to have been revealed by sleepers who have had their hands placed in water.

This belief has been practiced throughout the ages

and is, to this day, a highly popular one.

62. If the palm of the left hand itches, you will receive money. If the palm of the right hand itches, you are planning to spend money.

63. Lay the hand flat on a table with palm down, draw the fingers up so that the nails are perpendicular to the table top; begin with the index finger rising and falling on the table. Be sure that the three remain-
ing fingers are kept firmly pressed to the table while the other is rising and falling. After you have struck the table five strokes, let the index finger rest on the table and complete the same type of operation with the adjoining finger. This you will find easy to do. Now try the third finger with the same experiment. Remember the other three fingers are kept firmly planted on the table. If you can bring the third finger half as high as the first finger, you may anchor your life partner.

This is a good test for your fate in choosing your

mate. This belief is very modern or practiced in a

limited area. The author was unsuccessful in finding any

record of it in reference books.

64. "Cold hands, warm heart,

Dirty feet and no sweetheart."

65. If the hair on the back of your hand grows long, you are sure to be rich.
66. Cold hands are a sign of love.

67. A person possessing long thumbs is generally one of a sly disposition.

68. One who writes with a left-hand movement is nearly always of a sly disposition.

69. If a man clenches his thumb within his fist, he is a coward.

70. While sewing, if one wears a thimble on the left hand, she will be an old maid.

71. If a fisherman baits his hook with a worm from the left hand, he will not catch any fish.

72. Many persons believe it is bad luck to shake hands with the left hand. Some even refuse to clasp the left hand when offered in greeting. Modern society accepts the left hand with the same meaning as the right, especially if it is inconvenient to use the right.

73. An itching of the right palm signifies the approach of a friend.

74. In clasping your two hands together, if you place the thumb of your left over the thumb of your right, you will be ruled by your life partner; if, however, you clasp the thumb of your right over the thumb of your left, you will rule your life partner.

75. If your thumbs turn back at the end, you will not be able to save money.

76. If you stick your fingers or thumb with a pin, you may expect a hurried disappointment.

77. Many people believe that hands closed or partly clenched are indicative of a mean and grasping disposition.

This can hardly be supported as a reliable belief.

It is natural for muscles to take the position in which they are exercised most. The average person’s profession exercises the finger muscles in a position from semi-closed
to one of grasping, therefore the fingers swing in a somewhat closed position.

73. Press the fingers naturally alongside each other and bring the hand up with the palm to your face; if you can see between your fingers, you are a spendthrift.

79. If your little finger is crooked, you are a crook.

80. If your finger prints make circular or nearly circular lines, you are a money saver.

81. Spreading out the hands in a gesture of relaxation is an indication of a broad and generous mind.

82. If a woman has short fingers, she will be successful in household management.

83. If you can make the tips of the first and fourth fingers meet, you will be given the privilege of choosing your mate.

84. If you possess crooked fingers, you may rest assured that your ancestors used their hands in earning means of livelihood.

85. If one possesses long fingers, he will not have to scratch for a living, although he is better equipped to do so than one with short fingers. If one has long fingers, he is grasping; therefore, the longer the fingers, the less likely he is to have to scratch for a living.

86. One should not wear a ring on the middle finger. This is indicative of bad luck; it also represents that one has been married but is now divorced.

87. If you cut the nails of a sick person, he will die. A similar belief, though less severe, is one which says that a person who cuts his nails while he is in bed will not get well until the nails grow out.

88. If one bites his finger-nails, he will not grow tall.

89. If you have white spots on your finger-nails, you are considered a liar.
90. Half-moons at the bottom end of your finger-nails indicate that you are of good stock. A half-moon on each finger of both hands is indicative of very good blood.

91. If you have white spots on the nails, count from thumb to little finger while repeating: "friends, foes, presents, beaux, riches, blows."

92. If you possess ridged finger nails, you may expect a very short life.

93. One should not take his own measurements when buying clothes; for if you measure yourself, a member of the family will die before the year has expired.

94. If you wear leather on the right wrist, it will make you powerful.

95. If you lie on the right side at night, you will have good luck the following day.

96. For one to strike his "crazy bone" is a sign that two ladies are coming.

97. If shingles meets in one continuous sore around the body, you will die.

98. If you go anywhere and stumble along the way, you are not welcome.

Stumbling receives many interpretations. To some it is significant of good luck; to others bad. The one above seems to be the greatest penalty to those who maintain that stumbling along the way is to bring bad luck.

Some believe that if you stumble on the way to make a visit, you will gain a true friend while paying the visit; however, they believe that if you stumble as you go away from paying the visit, you will lose a sincere friend.

99. It is by far worse luck to stump the left foot than the right one. If, at the outset of a journey, one stumps his left foot, he should immediately go back and start the journey over.
100. To stomp the right foot produces a different effect. It is considered good luck to stomp the right foot when beginning a journey.

101. If your left foot itches, you are walking in a place where you are not welcome; if your right foot itches, you will walk on strange ground soon.

102. Big feet are a sure sign of intelligence.

103. Never allow someone to step over your feet. This is highly representative of bad luck. To avert the disaster of such a thing, ask the person to step back over.

104. If one steps first on the left foot in the morning, affairs will be wrong for him the entire day. To break the overhanging bad luck, spit before your left foot strikes the ground again.

Spitting is widely used to avert disaster. It is also indicative of certain other things.

105. If you spit on yourself, someone will tell a lie on you before the week is out.

106. If you spit on a rock, it will be sure to strike the object which you throw at.

107. Any bad charm may be broken by spitting over the left shoulder.

108. If you spit into anyone’s tracks, you will cause that person to take a headache. If he doesn’t take it, you will be the victim.

109. You can bring good luck to yourself by making a cross and spitting into it.

110. If a girl steps on the toe of another girl, the latter will take the sweetheart away from the former.

111. If you will dress and undress the right side first, you will be successful in your daily affairs.

112. If an amputated limb is buried, it will cause suffering for the patient until it decays. Limbs should always be cremated.
113. If you cross your feet while dancing, you will have trouble on your way home. To avoid the trouble, change partners for one dance.

114. If you are anticipating any legal procedure, step into the court room with your right foot first.

115. Large, square shoulders represent a bold, commanding type of person, one who is not in the habit of considering the advice of others.

116. Medium shoulders, well-shaped, denote the ability to depend upon one's self, though able to take good advice when it is considered by him as being good.

117. Anyone possessing freckles is said to have a pleasing disposition if the person is a brunette. If a red-complexioned person has freckles, high temper is the result.

Freckles on the face are, to some, signs of good luck; to others, bad luck.

118. A person with high cheek bones is believed to have Indian blood in his body.

119. If one's nose is long and pointed, he has an ill temper; if it is crooked, you must have your own way. A woman with a large nose has a large womb.

120. "A mole on the arm, you'll live on the farm."
"Mole on the arm, take life as an alarm."
"Mole on the arm, you're a gentleman's charm."
"Mole on your arm, you're not worth a darn."

The reader is familiar with a large number of sayings concerning moles on the body. The writer has used only the ones which are found most frequently. These deal chiefly with the location of the mole on the body. There are many different rewards promised for a mole on the arm.

121. You are especially gifted if you have a red mole. It is a sign of high intelligence.
122. A displeasing temper is denoted by a mole on the left leg; if it is on the right leg, you have a pleasing disposition.

123. "If a mole be on your leg
Your bread you'll have to beg."

124. "Holy, holy, on your leg
Money, money, by the leg."

125. "A mole on your face, well-dressed in lace."

126. "A mole on the face, a gentleman's taste."

127. "A mole on the face, you'll live in a beautiful place."

128. "Mole on your face, sure to suffer a disgrace."

129. "Mole on the ear, take life with a sneer."

130. "Mole on your ear, money by the year."

131. "Mole on the ear, jealousy and fear."

132. A mole on the right side represents good luck; on the left side, bad luck.

133. "Mole on your lip, your life will never slip."

134. "Mole on your breast, happiness in your nest."

135. "Mole on your breast, your love won't stand a test."

136. "Mole on your breast, fail to see life at its best."

137. A mole in your left hand is a sign that your life will be cursed with a great disaster.

138. "A mole on your neck, money by the peck."

139. "Mole on the neck, stay away from a ship's deck."

140. "Mole on your back, money by the peck."

141. If you find a pin pointing toward you, pick it up and stick it into the bark of a tree. Good luck is sure to result from it. If it is pointing away from you, give it to another person for good luck.
Closely associated with the beliefs in regard to the human body is the attitude toward dress. Many ideas are given about pins. The way in which it is lying, when found by someone, plays a great part in determining what charms is to follow.

142. If you find a pin with the side pointing toward you, there is a letter in the post office for you.

143. It is very unlucky for a woman to prick herself with a pin while dressing. She can avoid the disaster by turning the pin.

144. When you find a hairpin, hang it up on something; a nail or something iron is better. This will give you a new friend.

145. If you drop a pin and it sticks into the floor, someone whom you are eager to see is coming.

146. It is good luck to find a safety pin, provided that you do not find it in water.

147. Some people consider it bad luck to give another person a pin. Lay it down and allow the other to pick it up.

148. If a woman drops a hairpin and fails to pick it up, she will lose a good friend.

149. It is bad luck to find a button smaller than a penny. Avert the disaster by not picking up the button.

150. A pearl button is not representative of the preceding misfortune. This is a sign there is a letter in the post office for you.

151. If you drop a comb while combing your hair, you will be disappointed. If it falls behind you, there is trouble in sight for you.

152. The teeth of a comb should not be counted. They will either fall out or be the cause of the youngest of the family dying very soon.
153. If the hem of a girl's dress is turned up, and someone calls the wearer's attention to it, the wearer will get a new dress soon.

154. If the hem of a dress turns up, spit on it, and you will become wealthy.

155. Any other things may result from the preceding happening. Some maintain that it is a sign of a new sweetheart; others, that you are going to lose your present lover. If another girl calls the wearer's attention to the fact, she will be the one she is to receive the sweetheart of the unfortunate wearer.

156. If you tear a hole in a new dress before it is washed, you will live to wear out many more new dresses, provided that it is not torn behind. It is bad luck for this to happen.

157. After a number of boys have been in swimming, it is a sign of good luck to the first one who puts his hat on cap on.

The writer has witnessed such an experience; however, the one who was so eager to get his hat on first was not a boy but a man forty years of age.

158. It is a sign of misfortune for one to lay his hat on a bed. The punishment is doubled if a visitor lays his hat on the bed of his host. Upon removing the hat, one should take care not to hang it higher than his head. This is highly representative of bad luck. If the hat should happen to be knocked down, or if it should accidentally fall, the owner will suffer something disastrous that day.

159. Many people refuse to make clothes for people who are ill or for a dead person. It is believed by some that if a person makes the burial clothes of a deceased person, one of the immediate family of the maker will be the next to die.

160. New clothing should not be bought for a sick person. This is a sign that the person will never be well.

161. The apron worn by the superstitious housewife is an object of careful consideration; especially does she avoid the loss of it. Such disaster means the loss
of her husband. Some women might consider this loss a great gain. In the estimation of some the loss of the apron merely indicates the loss of a friend.

162. If a garment is put on wrong side out accidentally, it will bring good luck to the wearer.

No doubt the reader has heard many remarks made about garments worn wrong side out. At that time they might not have been regarded as superstitious; however, such goes along with odd customs and beliefs. The above belief receives a different interpretation from some. It is regarded by them as bad luck; however, ill fate can be averted by changing the garment right side out at midnight. The latter also believe that if the garment is discovered by the wearer, he can change it without bad luck.

163. After you have put on garments wrong side out, it is bad luck to change. If you allow someone else to change them for you, you will have good luck.

164. It is considered extremely bad luck to sew polka-dotted materials.

There are many odd beliefs concerning sewing. Various explanations of the above superstition have been given, but the chief reason is that the sewer has always heard that it was bad luck.

165. One should never sew a garment while it is being worn. Bad luck, even to death, may result. This should be observed especially on Sunday, for every time a stitch is taken in a garment that is being worn on this day, the Devil backs his ears.

166. If you mend a garment while it is on you, there will be a scandal started on you; and it will contain as many lies as you put stitches into the garment.
167. The old proverb "a stitch in time saves nine" is regarded by many as a superstition.

168. One should never sew new pieces on old garments. This makes a combination of old and new, or good and bad, wherein the old or bad is prevailing; and from it will spring something of misfortune.

169. There will be a death in the family if one turns a hole in a new garment. The spell of this bad luck sign can be broken by tearing some garment on your person. The preceding act will also serve to break any spell of bad luck brought about by something pertaining to wearing apparel.

170. The hair should not be combed while one is standing after night in front of a looking glass.

171. It is bad luck to put a white pin into a black dress.

172. If a woman dressed in black gets into a vehicle or conveyance at night, the other passengers may expect ill fortune.

173. It is considered bad luck for a woman to wear a black dress after midnight if she is to meet any other persons.

174. To meet a woman wearing a black dress after midnight brings bad luck.

175. It is considered bad luck to walk with one shoe off and the other on. Many things of ill fortune are destined to result. Some of these are: for every step you take with one shoe off and one on, you may expect one year of misfortune. If a child is doing the stepping, he may expect as many whippings as he takes steps. This number of steps is also significant of the number of steps one is taking into trouble.

Perhaps every reader has heard some statement made as to the dress of the feet. Probably the oldest and most widely known belief about shoes is in regard to walking with one shoe off and the other on.
176. If you pull off the right shoe first, you will never have the toothache.

177. Be sure not to dress one foot completely before dressing the other. This is a sure sign that you will have bad luck that day.

178. You may count on misfortune if you put the left shoe on the right foot.

179. If you will put on the right shoe and left garter first, you will have good luck. This keeps you from dressing one foot completely before you dress the other.

180. You will also do well to consider the foregoing when removing the shoes. Remove the left shoe and right garter first if you wish to have luck.

181. It is considered bad luck to put the left shoe on first. Headache will undoubtedly follow.

182. One should never put on the left stocking first. Bad luck will result.

183. If you have a hole in your stocking, it is a sign that there is a letter in the office for you. The size of the letter depends upon the size of the hole.

184. It is bad luck to button the top button of your shoe first.

185. When removing the shoes at night, be sure to place the inner sides against each other.

186. If you place your stockings in your shoes when you go to bed, you may expect bad luck the next day.

187. One should never buy shoes that have black leather used in the soles.

188. If you put your shoes into the closet higher than your head, you will never be married.

189. If your shoestring comes untied, someone is talking about you. To avert the saying of uncomplimentary remarks about you, allow someone else to tie it.
190. In one section of the county the placing of the shoes under the bed at night is different from that mentioned in 188. Here it is advocated that the toes be kept apart. They should always be turned out.

191. When the left shoestring comes untied, someone is speaking evil of you; the right, someone is speaking good.

192. Place your shoes with the toes away from the bed so that bad dreams will walk away from you at night.

193. "Shoes worn out on the side mean you will be a rich man's bride."

194. "If you wear your shoes out on the toe, money from your hand is sure to go."

195. If you wear your shoes out first in the middle of the sole, you will be rich some day.

196. If you accidentally spit on your shoes, you will get a new pair soon.

197. To lose one of your rubbers is a sign that you will lose a good friend.

198. The loss of a friend by the preceding act may be offset by the following superstition: if you wear a hairpin in your shoe, preferably one that you have found, you will find a true friend soon.

199. If your shoes squeak, they are not paid for.

200. One should never turn an old shoe. Rheumatism will be the result.

201. To find an old shoe in an unexpected place is one of the best signs of good luck.
Summary and Conclusion

Folklore gives us an easy understanding and sympathy with those with whom we come in contact. Their superstitious ideas might be grouped under many headings other than the ones presented by the author. However, these were the principal groupings found in this section of the country. In the chapter on Weather Signs, the author has listed two hundred and fifty-two prevalent ideas or beliefs. There were various others that might have been listed; but these were mentioned by one individual only, which, upon the writer's basis for usage, forced them to be excluded from the list. The reader will please remember that no belief was used in the study, unless it was presented by two or more individuals. There is no more interesting person to talk to than one who is well versed in signs pertaining to weather conditions. He can tell you when it will rain, snow, be cold, or hot. Strange to say, he is right in many instances. Many of his ideas, as has already been stated, have a logical basis. Then his belief fails, he charges it to some irregularity and still contends that he is right. He firmly believes that it will work next time.

No doubt, the reader could enumerate more superstitious beliefs concerned with good and bad luck signs than of any other type. Many of these beliefs that are supposed to be existing in Kentucky were not found in Grayson County.
Authorities claim that there are over five hundred bad luck signs. The writer found four hundred and fifty-two good and bad luck signs combined. One would not be expected to find the entire number existing in the state in a section the size of one individual county. Taking the collection as a whole, there are more luck signs listed than in any other particular chapter. Luck signs have always been found in civilized or uncivilized societies. At the present time we meet a great many of them. The person who maintains that there is no element of superstition about himself will often be acquainted with beliefs pertaining to luck. Of course he does not consider these beliefs seriously, but the thought of the beliefs enters the mind, nevertheless.

The reader will not assume that Grayson County is the only one that holds a large number of superstitious ideas. It is only representative of the other counties of Kentucky. Based upon frequency of occurrence, cures and preventives rate second. There are three hundred and twenty-six beliefs listed in the compilation that deal with cures and preventives. Many of these are purely imaginative fancies, yet there are numerous ones that are of great assistance. The helpful ones have certain medical contents, obtained from herbs largely. There were more remedies found for warts than for any other ailment. Certainly the reader has heard many of the remedies for warts mentioned herein. Perhaps some person
has suggested certain remedies for the removal of warts from the hands of the reader. More beliefs exercised by one person only were found in cures and preventives than in any other chapter. This may be explained by the fact that what will cure one person of a certain malady often will not cure another; therefore, in many instances, each individual has his own remedy.

The beliefs regarding love, marriage, and death are of supreme interest and importance to the student of lore. These beliefs are, in many instances, held as sacred as offering a prayer to the Almighty Master. Especially are the beliefs relative to death of great importance. If you would not hurt the feelings of your friend; if you would not make a life-long enemy of him; if you would not infringe upon that thing which, to him, is held as dear as the departed one, then forever hold any criticism that you may wish to offer when you see him carrying out some belief which to you seems nothing but foolishness. A black cloth draped over a beehive, when some member of the family dies, may be to you a thing of inferior significance, but it is much more than that to the person who insists that it should be done.

The beliefs regarding love and marriage may have a more trivial interpretation. They are more numerous than the ones associated with death. Many of them are familiar to the young people of the present time. There some ones are used
by the young people without a thought of their original significance. It is not out of place for any one to test the sincerity of his lover by plucking the petals from a daisy or by pressing alternately, and at right angles to each other, the sides of the soda-fountain straw. Either will offer delightful pastime, and, generally speaking, lovers have ample time for pastime.

Beliefs concerning dress and the human body are fairly well distributed. Almost everyone is familiar with the belief referring to a garment worn wrong side out. It is interesting to note the different attitudes people have toward this well-established belief. Has the reader ever been told to touch his beauty spot? Remember, if you are successful, you have various rewards awaiting you. The beliefs dealing with dress and the human body mentioned in the summary and conclusion were used because of their modern popularity. They only represent the fact that, although many of the superstitious beliefs are rapidly passing away, we have some of them left. Many of them have been lost, and others are passing year by year; but it is the sincere hope of the writer that we may be able to maintain in our literature collections of ideas that are so full of interest and so rightfully deserve a place in the record of our past, present, and future existence.


Urry, A. C., English Folklore (New York, Robert L. Scott, and Co., 1930).