

price by the year of your birth. And the insurance company said, "You have got to have absolute proof of the year of your birth." Well, it was an extremely difficult thing to get from anybody that age, to get some way to prove exactly what year they were born in. In this case I happened to remember that I had seen a book of geneology that I had read when I was in high ~~the~~ school which mentioned this woman, told of the whole ~~family~~ family, and mentioned her birth. So I went to the library and hunted around and found this book of geneology and looked up and sure ~~enough~~ enough it gave the woman's name and the year she was born, but it had the date wrong. It had the birthday one day off, and it just showed how hard it is to get exact proof that is certain as to particular dates even in comparatively recent years. Well, now when you come to ~~the~~ dates before the time of Christ you have the added difficulty that they didn't have our convenient system. It is very nice for us to say this is 1948 and then to say now it is ~~1948~~ 1949, and this event happened in '48 and this event happened in '49. But immediately the question is going to come when are you going to change from '48 to '49? Most of us will keep on writing ~~the~~ '48 for a week or two after '49 begins, but we will be convinced by seeing calendars all around us that say '49 that the change has been made. But why do we make the change on January 1st? Is there any sensible reason to make it on January 1st? There is absolutely none. We are used to it and that is the only reason. We might just as well pick out any other date as that date. Some people say that that is a good date ~~because~~ because it is near the winter  $6-8\frac{1}{4}$ , the time when the days have reached their shortest point and begin to lengthen again, but that is December 21 and that is no reason in the world to start a new year on January 1. If that is your date, you ought to make it December 21. Now we have one date we are accustomed to. We always say on January 1 it is a new year, but ~~the~~ twelve years ago, or thirteen years ago, in Greece they began fifteen days later than we did, and thirty years ago Russia also began thirteen days later than we did. I believe the whole world begins it on January 1 now, but ~~it~~