

The Baby Turtle.

Turtles lay their eggs in the sand and let the sun hatch them out. They do not lay them all in one place probably because they think it safer to scatter them. Then, even though one be stolen or broken, the others may escape. The mother turtle covers them all carefully up, one after another, with a thin sprinkling of sand and then apparently never gives them another thought, considering her maternal duty done. Certain it is that she has never been discovered going near these egg babies again, and when they hatch at last the tiny soft backed creatures at once begin crawling around in search of flies and other food as independently as if there were no such thing as a mother in the world. A little girl who found one of these odd oblong turtle eggs on a sandy river bank in Louisiana took it home and put it in a teacup on the table for safe keeping. A few hours later a slight noise was noticed in that direction, and on looking in the cup again she found a baby turtle, full fledged, but tiny, scrambling about among the bits of its broken eggshell cradle.

Ravens and the Hapsburgs.

Henri de Weidde tells the story of the late Empress Elizabeth and the ravens which Maurus Jokel gave in an article at the time of her majesty's tragic death. Early in her life Elizabeth wrote some verses in Hungarian on the subject of the raven, the bird of ill omen, which plays a great part in the history of the Hapsburgs. According to the imperial poetess, a flight of ravens was hovering over Olmutz when Francis Joseph received from his uncle's hands the crown which was destined to inflict upon him such miseries. A raven followed Maximilian and Charlotte on their last walk before their departure for Mexico, and when Maria Christina was starting to receive the crown of Spain, which was one day to be so grievous a burden, a raven flew over the horses' heads and accompanied the carriage to the railway station. These incidents were the subject of the poem.—Westminster Gazette.

Room For Improvement.

A certain estimable old gentleman is at all times worth listening to, though occasionally his grammar is scarcely perfect. He was dining on one occasion with the local squire, when, much to the disgust of his worthy host, a trifling error on the old gentleman's part was pounced upon and loudly repeated by the son and heir of the house. There was a painful silence, broken at length by the host. "My son," he remarked quietly to the young fellow, "there are times, I admit, when our old friend's speech is a little peculiar. At such times you might be of mutual assistance to each other." "In what way, sir?" asked the son. "Well," was the severe rejoinder, "you might give Mr. X. a lesson or two in grammar, in return for which I have no doubt he would assist you to patch up the holes in your manners."—London Tit-Bits.

Three Reasons For Declining.

Lord Broughton had a temper which sometimes exploded in a most disconcerting manner. It is related that on one occasion he dined with a large party at Thackeray's house, and after dinner some specially fine madeira was produced. In his usual genial way the novelist pressed this on his guests and, patting his neighbor, Lord Broughton, on the back, remarked, "Now, my dear old boy, you must try some of this." A chill fell on the company when the noble lord retorted, "I am not your dear boy, I am not old, and — your wine."

The Only Thing Left.

Jeremiah Jinks is rich and stingy. An acquaintance of his met Jinks' son the other day. "Your father seems to have lost a good deal of money lately. The last time I saw him he was complaining and saying he must economize." "Economize! Did he say where he was going to begin?" "Yes; on his table," he said. "Then he must be going to take away the tablecloth," was the filial declaration.—Exchange.

Jet.

In his "Mirror of Stones" Camillus Leonardus calls jet "black amber" and states that it possesses the peculiar property of attracting to it when rubbed light substances of all kinds. He also tells us that the thin smoke produced by this friction of rubbing was used by the ancient Britains for driving away devils and dissolving spells. "Jet," says Dr. Young, "appears to be wood in a high state of bituminization." And certainly jet often appears with traces of ligneous structure. At the same time there are specimens of bones which seemingly have been gradually impregnated with and at last wholly replaced by this substance. Among the jet rock there is found a liquid hydrocarbon somewhat resembling petroleum oil, which occurs in the cavities of ammonites, etc., and is also sometimes found in nodules, the presence of which is generally supposed to point to a rich vein of jet.

From these and other observations it would appear that jet existed as a liquid substance and that this substance gradually permeated between the laminations of the shales, etc., covering over or in some cases entirely replacing any woody matter which it met with.—New York Post.

Snuff Spoons.

All the world is familiar with snuff-boxes, but snuff spoons are pretty little refinements of which this generation has hardly heard. Very probably they came into use about two years after Sir George Rooke's expedition to Vigo bay in 1702, when he captured half a ton of tobacco and snuff from the Spanish galleons, and snuff thus became a common article in England.

One of the characters in a comedy published at Oxford in 1704, entitled "An Act at Oxford," by Thomas Baker, says, "But I carry sweet snuff for the ladies," to which Arabella replies: "A spoon too. That's very gallant, for to see some people run their fat fingers into a box is as nauseous as eating without a fork."

In the forties and fifties of the last century snuff spoons were still in use on the Scottish border. They were of bone and of a size to go into the snuff-box. People fed their noses. It was said, as naturally as they carried soup to their mouths. As late as 1877 a farmer at Norham-on-Tweed was seen using one.—London Saturday Review.

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