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GET THOSE LETTER HEADS NOW

SECRET OF ASPHALT PAVING

Proof That It Was Known to the Ancients, but Was Lost for Many Centuries.

One of the great secrets which the ancients took with them into their forgotten graves is the process of manufacturing asphalt of the kind found in the ruins of Babylon. In some respects the substance is superior to the most improved kind today, and while it is presumed the asphalt beds of the ancients were in Egypt, few records are available telling us whence they secured their material, it is stated.

Modern asphalt paving dates from the year 1712. It was then that a Greek physician, Doctor Erianius, discovered the famous beds near Neufchatel, and shortly after, the great asphalt rocks in the vicinity of Geneva were unearthed.

Count Sassenay was the first to lay asphalt pavement in Europe, and the test he made in 1832 was followed by various other experiments which in 1838 led to the discovery that the refuse from gas works could be turned into pavement.

American road builders have been using asphalt for scores of years, and in most cases they have followed the process of the famous Claridge patent, which was used in paving Trafalgar square in January, 1864.

DIDN'T WANT TO MISS THAT

Youngster's Perfectly Natural Curiosity to See the Salamander at Its Particular Work.

Arthur still took people at their word, so of course he had not yet been graduated from the kindergarten. One morning the teacher, who had obtained a small salamander for the sand pile, took the children up to the table to see it and tell them all about its habits. In the course of the explanation one of the urchins attempted to touch the amphibian and the teacher reproved him by saying, "Mustn't touch the salamander, Billie; they make nice pets."

Presently she felt that they had seen about enough and so she led them to their chairs, all going willingly, except Arthur, who hung back.

"Come back to your chair now, Arthur," the teacher requested. "Why are you staying to look at the salamander so long?"

"I'm a-waiting to see it make a pet," replied Arthur solemnly.

HUMANITY AND FISHES.

Picture to yourself an old man with a mild face and gentle manners—spending his life faring up and down the seven seas in a glass-bottomed yacht, year after year peering through a water telescope at the multiform life of the ocean. That is the prince of Monaco, greatest of all oceanographers, servant of science and benefactor of mankind. And the money that makes possible his really great contributions to science is provided day after day, year after year, by the steady stream of foolish gold that flows to him across the gaming tables of Monte Carlo. Does the prince, we wonder, find in the ocean creatures more strange than those who harbor in his palaces of chance?—Collier's Weekly.

MUNICIPAL HEARSE.

In Munich, Germany, hearse service has been "communalized" and will be carried out by means of gasoline automobiles exclusively in the future. Heretofore, the service has been partly in the hands of livery men, who furnished horse-drawn hearses and partly of the city which owned a number of electric hearses. The change from electric to gasoline hearses was due to the fact that the electric were about worn out.—Scientific American.

THE QUICKER THE SOONER.

Motorist—Is there any ordinance limiting the speed of autos in this town?

Native—Gawsh, no! You fellers can't git through Squashville any too quick for us.—Boston Transcript.

REPLANTING FORESTS.

With more than 174,250,000 acres of national forests in its care the United States government is replanting denuded areas at a rate of 7,000 acres a year, one nursery having a capacity of 3,000,000 trees annually.

CUT STEEL ROD

It Impaled a Workman but Surgeons Will Save Him.

Impaled by a steel bar a workman at Wickworth, Eng., had a remarkable escape from death, due largely to the prompt performance of an extraordinary surgical operation.

A ramrod used in fixing the charge of explosive in a limestone quarry had been blown through a quarryman's neck, and the doctors, working on a ledge of rock in the fierce heat of the sun, cut through the steel bar on both sides of the neck with an engineer's hacksaw so that the desperately injured workman could be removed.

The man, James Elze, was conscious. Eventually it was possible to remove him to hospital and the remaining portion of the steel was taken from his neck. It had missed the arteries, the larynx and spinal column, and the patient has a chance of recovery.

ITALIANS DODGING TAXES.

Ingenious methods are invented in Italy to avoid paying the luxury tax. The tailor approaches one mysteriously when his suit is finished, and asks if he wishes to have a bill when he pays for it, in which case he will have to add \$30 luxury tax. "If, however, you like to give me the money for the suit here and now, I will give you the suit, and we will say no more about making out a bill," he adds. A foreigner was buying some lace in a Roman shop which cost \$24, and, to her surprise, the owner of the shop said: "Would you like me to make you a bill for \$3.80 (the luxury tax begins on articles over \$4) and then if you will give my little girl a present of \$20 that will make things right. Why should we either of us pay money to the government that we are not obliged to pay?"

Chicks Hatched in Crate.

In the market house of Paducah, Ky., a woman was astonished to find 14 thriving chicks in the bottom of an egg crate.

She had bought the crate some time before and had been selling eggs from the top. The sun is thought to have hatched the chicks.

Jailed for Killing Cat.

Michael Zistoni, of New York city, was sentenced to two days in the workhouse for the "murder" of a cat. He says he threw the animal out of the window in self-defense.

MANY CLING TO OLD COINS

Currency That is Out of Circulation but Highly Prized by Ardent Numismatists.

It is one of our great national facts that every scrap of metal which has ever received the stamp of legality from a United States mint is good until defaced or redeemed. There are therefore a great many thousand dollars' worth of old-fashioned coins wandering around which no one ever thinks of trying to spend or would agree to take, except as a curiosity. The principal of these are the old silver 5 and 3-cent pieces, the nickel 3-cent piece and the bronze 2-cent piece, says the New York Sun.

Askance is looked more and more frequently at the larger silver coins with the seated figure of Liberty, and even the "nickel" with the figure "5" which ceased to be coined in 1883, while the Jonah of the whole family is the still perfectly legal tender half-cent, coined between the years 1793 and 1857. What would happen if a busy trolley conductor were tendered ten of these as a fare at the rush hour may best be left to the imagination. The smallest check ever issued by the United States treasury is one for "1 cent," mailed a few years ago to a San Francisco wag who stood on his constitutional right to present two bronze half cents for redemption.

POWER OF THE PRESS.

Señor V. Blasco Ibanez, the Spanish novelist, believes in his profession and declares (in the "Times" book review) that "without any doubt whatever, the novel is the most important and characteristic literary manifestation of modern life."

But no, señor, the most important literary manifestation of modern life is the newspaper. The world could get along without novels better than you may think, but without newspapers grass would grow in the streets and skin raiment would come back into fashion.—E. S. Martin, in Life.



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