

eyes and uses them may see that those who live in the open air and under the sunny rays are healthier and stronger than those whose days are chiefly spent in the shade. The feeble should seek the sunny rays; many become feeble by excluding from their homes the life-giving sun. They do all they can to exclude the source of all strength and health. Let all pale, weakly women court the sunny rays and become robust and strong.

HINDU TEMPLES.—These edifices, which, of course, none but Hindus are allowed to enter, have lofty truncated pyramidal portals, which, with the columned portico, are the only things notable. This grand portal tower is carved all over with figures, not an inch being without these sculptures in relief. All the popular deities may be picked out. Beneath the pillared portico several scores of women and children are sheltered from the glowing sun, now and then purchasing some little fruit from the vendors sitting behind their heaps of bananas, oranges and other fruits. So soon as I began to examine closely the figures sculptured on pediments of the columns I was surrounded by a swarm of small naked forms, which displayed as much curiosity as would be excited by a Hindu inspecting Westminster Abbey. In front of the large temple there is a smaller one, a palm-thatched chapel of ease, in which Lakshmi was placed on her return. Beside it is the car—for every deity has a sort of Lord Mayor's coach—and in front the square tank, covering over an acre, in the centre of which is a sculptured edifice, apparently ornamental. When the goddess had been carried within, the chanting ended, the veil was drawn. I walked away fifty yards, and while strolling heard loud calls. Turning, I saw the huge elephant which had attended the procession making straight for me, brandishing his huge trunk, while the man on his back was uttering various cries, pointing to me and then to the animal. I was just considering whether a sudden bath in the holy tank might not be the better part of valor, when my driver came running and said, "The elephant wants some money." Ah! have I not often found relief in an application of "baksheesh!" I waited until this elephantine devotee of the goddess of wealth approached and placed a bit of silver in his proboscis. He raised it above his head to the hand of the man on his back, then went off to a large shaded space near by, where, falling on his knees for the man to alight, he was soon stretched on his side in sweet repose. It was the largest and finest elephant I ever saw.

THE IGUANA.—The Iguana is a very large and ugly looking lizard which is found all through the American tropics. It measures fully five feet in length, its body being over two feet and its long, tapering tail nearly three. It is covered with scales, and its usual color is green, shaded with brown. Iguanas possess, however, to an extent exceeded only by the chameleon, the power of changing their colors, the brilliant green becoming transformed in an instant, through the influence of fear or anger, into darker hues, or even into black. The eyes of the Iguana are large, as is also its head, while a pouch, notched in front, depends from the lower jaw. It also has a notched tuft like a comb extending along its back and half the length of its tail. Its legs are long and its feet are armed with strong claws, which enable it to climb about among the branches of the trees with the greatest rapidity. One would think that so large a creature would be slow and clumsy in its movements, but no squirrel or small lizard could be lighter and more active than the Iguana. It is as much at home in the water as on the land, and can remain under the surface a long time without coming up to breathe. When swimming it

propels itself ahead with marvelous quickness by waving its long tail from side to side, and using its paws very much in the manner that a boy would use his arms. A singular instance of the power and velocity of the Iguana is related by an English traveler. On the brink of a river he came suddenly upon one of these huge lizards lying concealed in the tall grass. Alarmed by the appearance of a man, whom the Iguana recognizes as its deadly enemy, the creature sprang into the water, but in place of swimming, so great was the force of its spring, that it skimmed across the broad river, scarcely touching the surface with its feet. In two minutes it reached the sand banks of the opposite shore, and soon vanished among the bushes.

SOFTENING LEATHER.—Neatsfoot oil will not soften leather under all circumstances, neither is castor oil any better. Oil is not necessary to the pliability of leather—the leather of the ox, goat, calf, and kid. It is necessary that the leather be kept moist; but oil need not be the moistening means. Yet in use oil is the most convenient means for keeping leather soft. It would be inconvenient to employ water to keep pliable the leather of our boots, because of it spreading the pores of the leather and admitting cold air; besides, unless always wet, leather becomes hard and rigid. Oil, on the contrary, keeps the leather in a proper state for its best usefulness, that of pliability. But in order that oil may soften the leather, its way should be prepared by a thorough wetting of the leather by water. Much less oil is required if the leather is well saturated with water. The philosophy is obvious; water is repellent to the oil, and prevents it from passing entirely through the leather, holding the oil in the substance of the leather. The use of water for softening belts in factories is not inconvenient, if advantage is taken of a holiday. At night the belts may be brushed clean and thoroughly wetted, then in the morning use the oil; a much smaller quantity is necessary to render the belt pliable than when no water is used.

ASSOCIATED DAIRYING.—There can be no doubt but what the introduction of the creamery, or factory system, has been a great benefit to the farmers of the West. It has added a good deal of money to the pockets of those who retain cows on the farm. It has relieved our good wives from a burden, which is gratifying to every farmer that has a proper regard for his better half. It has been the cause of increasing the quality of butter beyond the expectation of every one. All of the farmers do not make good butter, but all of the creameries or factories, as a general rule, make the very best. It saves the individual farmer the trouble, annoyance and expense of marketing his butter. He receives at his own threshold the money for his milk or cream, once a week, or once a month, just as he may elect. This is a matter of a good deal of moment, because he can use his money as often as he has a demand for it. Then, again, it places the quality of the product of the whole neighborhood on an equality. Finally, the creamery system, being a co-operative measure, lessens the care and anxiety of the farmer who patronizes it.—*Stock, Farm and Home.*

THE ALASKA INDIANS.—There are 40,000 of the Alaska Indians. They are indolent and squalid. Their number is constantly decreasing. They live half of their days in canoes made of solid logs, burned out. In the miserable huts are bleary-eyed old sinners and half-clad women who will sell whatever they happen to possess, even their child daughters, provided they can get their price, and every family has a dog or two as ugly and dirty as their owners.