

NEW AND CURIOUS.

The rarest species of bird extant makes its home in the jungles of South America. It is known as the "horned screamer". It is about the size of a full grown turkey hen, of a dark brown color. One of its distinguishing peculiarities is a ruffle of black and white which surrounds the head. The only one now in captivity in North America is said to belong to the aviary of the Philadelphia zoological gardens, and has been in this country about three years.

If there is anything on earth that will mildew a man and make him good for nothing, it is the habit of moping. If he cannot work, or thinks he can't let him go out and take a walk and start his circulation. It is surprising what a little fresh air and exercise will do for a man. Keep moving, the first thing you know you will be whistling or humming a tune; then you will laugh to yourself and go back to work, refreshed and invigorated. The fresh air, exercise and sunshine have taken the stupidity out of you.

Mr. W. E. Roth has recently published the results of his studies among the native inhabitants of the northwestern part of central Queensland, in Australia. His most interesting discovery is that of the existence of a sign language expressed by means of the hand, and conveying complex as well as simple ideas. Mr. Roth gives illustrations of 213 of the manual signs employed in this language, which is used throughout the region studied by him. Cannibalism, he says, still prevails among some of the Australian tribes.

One thing it is fair to say for the weasel which makes the farmer, provided his poultry house is secure, regard him with far more toleration than does the game keeper. He is as inveterate a mouse destroyer as is the barn-owl, and where stacks are infested he will often satisfy his appetite on the swarms of mice. Thus one evil checks another. The weasel is often mistaken for the stoat. There is a simple method of distinguishing them. The stoat is about fifteen inches long, as against the weasel's eleven or less; also, the stoat's tail is tipped with black, while the weasel's is red throughout. Another peculiarity of the stoat is that it turns white in winter. He is also a mouse and rat killer. His favorite food, however, is rabbit. But he does not limit himself to that fare, a fact the Australians are now bewailing, having imported them to keep down the swarms of rabbits. It is now said that 100,000 stoats are born per day throughout the

colonies, and the remedy has been found worse than the disease.

It would be little short of marvelous if water power, which has to an extent fallen into disuse since electricity has developed such amazing qualities, should come to the front and outrank even the electric current as a transmitter of power. The tremendous energy capable of being generated by water under very high pressure is as yet imperfectly understood. One has only to experiment with a charging apparatus and a soda-water bottle to discover what may yet prove to be the simplest and most efficient power within our reach.

Some studies as to the effects of tobacco on students in colleges is being made in various places. Of the highest scholarship men in Yale, only five per cent. use tobacco. Of those who get no appointments, sixty per cent. use it. The inference Dr. Seaver, director of the physical laboratory of Yale, draws is that it is those of a lower grade of intellect generally who use tobacco. The higher and more normally developed students do not have a craving for it. Perfectly healthy people, it is believed, have neither a craving for tobacco nor alcohol. Our best athletes are good illustrations. The probable truth is that those who use the weed, to a certain extent paralyze their aspirations to high attainments, and are content without striving for that which is the noblest and best.

Constructive Freethought.

I want to emphasize the fact that Freethought, as a negative doctrine, does not always produce good results. I myself know a number of so-called Freethinkers who are of less use to the world than the average church member. The man who frees himself from the chains of the Christian religion is not necessarily a useful member of society. To some people Freethought simply means the saving of a few dollars a year. While they were church members they considered it their duty to contribute toward the support of the church, but now they are "free" and are willing to let others save themselves; they seem to think that all they need to do is to attack the doctrine of hell, to ridicule the story of Jonah and the whale, and to accuse the preachers of hypocrisy and lying. Let me ask you, why do we have so few Freethought organizations, and why is the cause of Freethought so poorly supported? Why do our Liberal papers find it so difficult to make both ends meet? It is because the Freethinkers are apathetic, because they lack enthusiasm and cannot pull together.

I repeat that we must be "a constructive force for the betterment of mankind" and that negotiations alone

are not sufficient. Let us by all means destroy the superstitions of the Christian religion, but let us remember that this is only the beginning of our work, and let us give the people something better in the place of the church; let us infuse into them an enthusiasm for humanity. "Let us instruct and enlighten; let us work for better economic conditions, for a higher standard of morals, for free womanhood, for the right of children to be born well, for temperance, peace and justice."—[Cyrus W. Coolidge, in Truthseeker.

Secularists, would you not like to have some letter heads printed with Secular sentiment and Wettstein's Freethought badge, to use in correspondence with your friends? We will furnish them to you with your name and address printed on them for 75 cents per hundred, \$1.50 for 250, or \$2.50 for 500, post paid. Let the people know where you stand.

KINNEY AND PORTER

Main Street Silverton, Ore

CARRY A COMPLETE STOCK OF

School Supplies, Books and Stationery.

Dealers in Fruits, Vegetables and Confectionery.

Water Street.. Market

CASH PAID FOR ALL KINDS OF FAT STOCK, HIDES, PELTS, ETC.

MEATS SOLD AT REASONABLE RATES.

Drake & Webb,

Silverton

Oregon

War News

If you want the latest news in detail of the American-Spanish conflict, subscribe at once for the

Oregonian

Fullest telegraphic reports, which can be relied on. Daily and Sunday, 85c per month; weekly, 12 pages, \$1.50 per year. Address

OREGONIAN PUBLISHING CO. PORTLAND, OR.

Six Tracts to Promote

Scientific Wisdom.



In Place of Christianity:

- 1 Can Sins be Forgiven?
- 2 Does Christianity or Science Promote Civilization?
- 3 Is Religion or Science More Reliable?
- 4 Evolution and Comparison of Religions.
- 5 Does Belief in Miracles Benefit?
- 6 Immortality or Annihilation?

JUST THE THING

to hand to your Christian friends. Send 2 cents for 6, or 6 cents for 25 tracts, to ELIZA MOWRY BLIVEN, Brooklyn, Conn., or send 10 cents for 50, either kind or assorted kinds, to

THE LIBERAL UNIVERSITY CO.,
Silverton Oregon

MAIN STREET

BUTCHER CO.

A. G. McMILLEN, Proprietor.

—All kinds of choice—

...FRESH MEAT...

Always on hand and sold at

Standard * Prices.

We pay the highest price

Cash for Fat Stock.

....Give Usa Call....

How to Make Good Times for all Time

The Government nationalized the Postal System, why not also the Money System? A plan is told by C. ELTON BLANCHARD in his book entitled

UNCLE SAM'S HOMILIES ON FINANCE

Postpaid for 25 Cents.

All profits on this book will be given to the Liberal University. It should be in the hands of every thinking person. Address all orders to **The TORCH OF REASON, Silverton, Oregon.**