



In the British Museum there are books written on bricks, oyster shells, bones and flat stones, and manuscripts on bark, ivory, leather, iron, copper and wood.

Photographers, in their constant study of the face, find that the left side makes the more pleasant picture, and that the profile as seen from the left gives a more correct likeness than when viewed from the right.

It is claimed that very young children are not sensitive to pain to any great extent. Dr. Denger calculates that sensibility is seldom clearly shown in less than four or five weeks after birth, and before that time infants do not shed tears.

A French inventor has designed a new lifeboat, which has a weighted keel extending low enough from the bottom to prevent its overturning, while air-tight compartments are placed in the ends and sides, which will keep it from sinking when full of water.

A writer in Harper's Round Table describes a piece of amber in which is imbedded a lizard eight inches in length and belonging to a species which is no longer extant. The little animal is perfectly preserved in his golden-hued prison, all of its colors showing through. This is not the only instance in which the fossilized gum called amber has preserved specimens of living forms that have now become extinct.

The latest scientific conclusions concerning the planet Mars, are that the planet is analagous to the moon, and has no atmosphere, no clouds, no canals, and therefore no human life. M. Antionadi, of the observatory of Juvisy, Paris, after a long study of Mars under Flammarion, undertakes to deny Schiaparelli's theory of the parallel canals on Mars. The French astronomer attributes the appearance of canals to optical illusion.

A writer in Knowledge describes the interesting operations of the bee called the "leaf-cutter". This insect drills in a sand-bank a hole ten inches deep and half an inch in diameter, and divides it into about a dozen compartments or cells. Each cell is composed of pieces of leaf, cut into proper shape and carefully fitted together. Rose and sweet-pea leaves are among the favorites of the bee. The cutting is done with the jaws, while the six legs hold the leaf in position and enable the insect to turn itself about with the precision of a pair of compasses. Some of the cut pieces are perfect circles; others are

oblong figures of varying proportions. Having cut out the segment of leaf, an operation requiring about twenty seconds, the bee carries it to the sand-bank, and then returns for more materials. When a piece has been nearly cut off, the bee, in order to prevent tearing, poises itself in the air with its wings, and completes the operation with a clean cut.

According to statistics obtained by Mr. W. H. Hornaday from sportsmen and naturalists in all parts of the United States, there has been a decrease of no less than 46 per cent. in the number of native birds during the last fifteen years. Among the alleged causes are killing by gunners, plume-hunting, egg-stealing, fire, and the spread of the quarrelsome English sparrows. Game and edible birds are becoming scarce, and in their stead song birds are used for food.

The examination of volunteers for service in the army and navy, which has been in progress at the recruiting stations since the president's call for troops, has emphasized the fact that bicycle riding, as commonly indulged in, is detrimental to health. Derangements of vital organs of the body sufficient to debar the victim from enlistment on the ground of physical unfitness were in many cases directly traceable to the cramping caused by the common bicycle posture. The bicycle rider should take pains to sit up straight.

At a recent meeting of the Anthropological society in Washington, Dr. Matthews described the snake-worship of the Navajos. A Navajo, he said, never kills a snake. If he finds one coiled in his path he gently lifts it with a stick and tosses it aside. The Navajos think snakes are very wise, and understand the language of men. At the same time, they believe snakes are evil, and will employ the information they get by listening to men for their disadvantage. Accordingly, the Navajos hold their most sacred rites and recite their myths only in winter, when the snakes are hibernating and cannot overhear them.

Tenth Annual Convention.

The Tenth Annual Convention of the Oregon State Secular Union will be held at Wagner, Oregon, three days, beginning Sunday, July 3, E. M. 298. This is the first time a convention has been called to meet in this part of the state, and a splendid time is anticipated. The first day will be devoted to exercises at the grave of Katie Kehm Smith, and the second day to the celebration of Independence Day. A full program will be announced later.

PEARL W. GEER,
President.

Silverton, Or., May 5, 1898.

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