

FAMILY OF SNAKE CHARMERS

Women Have Peculiar Power Over Reptiles Which the Ordinary Person Holds in Dread.

Possibly nowhere else is the art of snake charming brought to such a pitch of perfection as at Mount Popa, Upper Burma, India, and strangely enough by women. Here two famous sisters, whose fame is a byword throughout Burma, make their home. At special requests they will descend to bring their proteges down to the town for exhibition of their skill, but as a rule they prefer the vicinity of their mountain. This particular family has carried on their profession for many years past, keeping their secret always within their own circle.

The snakes they use are the deadly hamedryad or nala bungarus (nala ephlogagus), the king cobra. The task, possibly, would not appeal to many, as these reptiles are the most dreaded of their kind. Measuring up to 12 feet in length, they possess a deadly poison in their fangs, and an alarming speed. It is said of them, also, that they are the only snake who will attack a human being on sight, chasing him for miles until one or the other is bound to give in.

GETS WRONG VIEW OF LIFE

Person of Undeclatè Character Can Hardly Be Brought to See Things in Right Light.

A person of undeclatè character wonders how all the embarrassments in the world happened to meet exactly in his way, to place him just in that one situation for which he is peculiarly unadapted, but in which he is also willing to think no other man could have acted with facility or confidence. Incapable of setting up a firm purpose on the basis of things as they are, he is often employed in vain speculations on some different, responsible state of things, which would have saved him from all this perplexity and irresolution. He thinks what a determined course he could have pursued if his talents, his health, his age, had been different; if he had been acquainted with some one person sooner; if his friends were, in this or the other point, different from what they are; or if fortune had showered her favors on him. And he gives himself as much license to complain as if all those advantages had been among the rights of his nativity, but refused, by a malignant or capricious fate, to his life.—Rev. John Foster.

Holy Days in Dutch Land.

What is religion? It is not the observance of forms and feast days. We have only nine national holidays in America. Only two of our holidays, namely, Thanksgiving and Christmas, may be called even quasi religious. The others celebrate the birth of some great man like Columbus, Washington and Lincoln; or some great achievement like the birth of Independence on the Fourth of July or the new birth of liberty on Memorial day.

Creative Ability.

In our office we draw a very distinct line between designs or sketches and working drawings, and it is, in my opinion, fatal to try to measure a designer's ability by the number of hours it would take him to produce a sketch. It is work that requires creative imagination, and our designers are not judged by the amount of time they put into the solution of an architectural problem, but solely by the results which they obtain, irrespective of cost, so that this part of the work does not come under this category. Only after sketches have been approved, and the work is turned over to general draftsmen to be developed into working drawings, can we begin to apply scientific methods in accomplishing the different ends.—Sunbeam.

The Wig in History.

The custom of wearing a wig, as a recognized part of the costume, dates from the early days of the seventeenth century. It started in France, when Louis XIII, being greatly struck by the "long, fair locks" of the Abbe La Riviere, attached by the simple means of a periwig, adopted the style for himself, and so set the fashion. By the time of Charles II the wearing of the periwig, or peruke, or perwig, had become general. Pepys records the fact that he paid £3 for one; but it was not until the time of Queen Anne that periwigs, or wigs for short, really came into their own. Then did they appear in the full glory of an ever changing though fast stabilizing fashion.

Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional treatment. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a running or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; unless care be taken, the case becomes permanent. We will give you Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured. Write for Circulars. Cure Sold by Circulation. Dr. J. C. CHERNEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio. Send this Circular to you for free.

SPAN OF LIFE LENGTHENED

No Doubt That the People of Today Live Longer Than Did Their Ancestors.

When reading of people who lived long years ago and especially when reading about the length of their lives, we are told that in the old days people lived longer than they do now. Some of the early historical records speak of single individuals who lived hundreds of years. There is great doubt as to whether these statements are founded on fact. In thinking about this we must first take into consideration that these records of long ago were recorded at a time when man had no accurate idea of the actual passage of long periods of time such as a year. They did not have our calendar as a basis for figuring at all. Learned men now tell us that the actual age of men who lived at the time these records of great ages were recorded probably lived shorter lives than we do now, and that what they recorded as a period of one year was probably a much shorter period than one year.

It is true beyond the question of a doubt that the people of today live longer on an average than people who lived ten, twenty or more years ago, observes the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. In other words, the average period of life has increased steadily. This is due to the fact that we have taken greater care of our bodies; have improved the conditions in which we live, and made them more sanitary; have learned to fight and check and eradicate diseases which only a few years ago we could not prevent people dying of when they once contracted them, and we know from the records which we keep that actually people live longer on the average today than only a few years ago, and it is safe to say that they live longer now on the average than at any time in the world's history.

STRICT ETIQUETTE IN CHINA

Matter of Tea Drinking a Thing of Much Importance in the Flowery Republic.

The etiquette observed in tea drinking in China is very curious. If a lady asks you to drink tea with her—and especially if the tea be sweetened—you can count yourself as well received and much liked. If she does not like you, the tea is bitter, and the report has it that in cases of this sort drinkings are often used. After one sip of such tea the unliked visitor makes a prompt exit!

Ancient Asbestos.

There was a winding sheet of amianthus in the Vatican library, soft and pliable in the hand, showing indications of ignition upon one corner. The cloth, however, did not suffer. This burning is taken as showing that some combustible fiber had been intermingled. Marco Polo, in the thirteenth century, reported a cloth which the natives of territory now included in Russian Siberia claimed as having been made of salamander skin.

Marco Polo satisfied himself, so it seems, that he had to do with a mineral substance. In fact, he found out something as to its manufacture. In this same general region of country asbestos is today known to exist.

Fully Qualified.

They were arguing about qualifications for successful careers, and a famous playwright, who was one of the party, maintained that the stage offered the easiest opportunities for beginning. As some doubt was thrown on this claim, he produced a letter from a man who wished to be engaged for his new play, which was about to be produced. The letter ran as follows:

"I've read Sir: Washing to go on the stage, would like to appear in your play. Have been a market gardener for some years, but, having gone bankrupt, have decided to take up acting, the same requiring no capital. I am no longer young, but 6 feet 2 in my stocking feet. Have mastered a book on elocution, and am fond of late hours."—Windsor.

Scotland's River System.

If there be one place north of the Tweed where, at a single glance, one may view and comprehend the chief river system of Scotland, Stirling is that place. From this point one notes the main streams, the affluents, and the gathering of the waters, which make the Clyde, the Forth and the Tay. He can then realize how great and important in the political and economic history of Scotland has been that great central valley, which stretches from the North sea to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean.—William Elliot Griffis, in "Bonnie Scotland."

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USE TIN TO WEIGHT SILK

Manufacturers Have to Employ Material Which Would Seem Hardly Suitable for Human Apparel.

We have adopted many foreign ideas of comfort or utility, but no one has sought to introduce the wooden shoe from Holland. The tin stocking is even less suggestive of luxury, and yet many of us wear them. Of course a person could not wear a sock of "eighteen-carat" tin and be unconscious of it, but if the tin is alloyed and disguised with silk he can wear a considerable amount of it without suspecting it.

In cutting round tops and bottoms out of tin sheets in the manufacture of tin cans there remains a certain amount of scrap. Men have set up night figuring the maximum number of such pieces of various sizes that can be cut from a sheet of the tin, and still there is the waste left over that cannot be worked into sheets again. Relief is found in the demand of the manufacturer of silk, who needs some substance to weight his goods. A silk garment hangs and fits and holds its shape better if weighted. Everybody knows how soft and light are the unweighted pongee silks. So the manufacturers of tin cans and of silks co-operate. One disposes of his tin waste, and the other converts the metal into tin chloride and works it into the woven silk. Virtually all the waste of tin can factories is put to that use. Some silk stockings contain as much as 30 per cent of tin. The use is entirely legitimate, since the trade demands a silk that is firm and heavy for certain garments for which the purchaser desires a perfect fit.

Silk waste, such as worn-out and cast-off garments, becomes in turn a source of tin worth attention. Rag pickers give little heed to silk remnants, but carefully collect linen and wool. The rag-pickers' union, if there is such a body, might well take notice of this information. The tin chloride in the silk is easily converted into tin oxide by burning the material; and from the oxide the metal can be recovered.—Youth's Companion.

PARK A PLACE OF WONDERS

Yellowstone Has Many Marvels Which Will for All Time Furnish Attraction for Tourists.

In writing of the Yellowstone park, John Muir has said: "In some of the spring basins the waters though still warm, are perfectly calm, and shine blandly in a sod of overleaving grass and flowers, as if they were thoroughly cooked at last, and set aside to settle and cool. Others are wildly boiling over as if running to waste, thousands of tons of the precious liquids being thrown into the air, to fall in scalding floods on the clean coral floor of the establishment, keeping onlookers at a distance. Instead of holding limpid pale green or azure water, other pots and craters are filled with scalding mud, which is tossed up from three to four feet to thirty feet, in sticky, rank-smelling masses, with gasping, belching, thundering sounds, plastering the branches of neighboring trees; every flask, resort, hot spring and geyser has something special in it, no two being the same in temperature, color, or composition."

The Mangrove.

The mangrove tree, specimens of which are in the Arnold Arboretum, the tree museum of Harvard university, has a very interesting method of sending its seeds or fruits into the world. Growing as it usually does in shallow water, it is necessary for the young fruits actually to begin growing before they leave the parent plant. The fruit, which resembles a large inverted berry, sends out large leaves at its upper end and a long root, sometimes 18 inches in length, from the lower end, while yet attached to the parent plant. Then as if by magic, the parent plant drops it into the mud where the plant already growing begins to develop into a larger plant and soon is firmly established. If it were not prepared immediately to begin to grow in the mud it would probably be washed away. A single mangrove is oftentimes able to start a small island by its manifold roots and arms.

Some Nomenclature.

A Baltimorean recently received a letter from a Pennsylvania town telling of the christening in that town of a baby in whom patriotism triumphantly, if vicariously yelled when the name was announced as "Victory Uncle Sam." In this same family were two other children endowed with the names of "Italy" and "Liberty." A friend to whom this story was told made a counter attack on wondering ears by telling of two unfortunate children in West Virginia, who, antedating the war and its triumphs, were given the names from adjacent localities of "McAfee's Knob" and "Jebel Dogn." And yet even omniscient Shakespeare wanted to know what was in a name.

Historic Geneva.

Any one at all familiar with the great names and associations of Geneva will constantly trace them in the streets—the Rue Calvin, the Rue Neckar, the Rue Voltaire, the Rue Paret, and, above all, the Rue Jean Jacques-Rousseau, where Rousseau's father lived; the Grand Rue, where Rousseau himself was born, the house being marked with a memorial tablet, and the Promenade de la Tretoie, where, as he relates, his father and mother, in their courtship days, used to walk up and down of an evening.

REVIEW'S LEGAL BLANKS

The following list of legal blanks are kept for sale at this office and others will be added as the demand arises: Warranty deeds, Quit Claim Deeds, Realty and Chattel Mortgages, Satisfaction of Mortgages, Contracts for Sale of Realty, Bills of Lading, etc.

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