

PISCATORY STUPIDITY.

The Fish's Capacity For Learning Is Painfully Contracted.

Most fishes seek their food by sight, says Professor Edmund Clark Sanford in the International Quarterly, and those do not usually notice it by any other sense. But those that are accustomed to find it by smell seldom pay any attention to it when they merely see it.

Catfish depend principally on the sense of taste, and they seem to taste all over, not only in the mouth, but by the outer skin as far back as the tail fin.

It is uncertain whether fishes can feel pain or not. There is a good deal of evidence to show that they cannot.

A fish that has lost its sight may learn to avoid an obstacle after swimming against it a single time, but fishes that can see will jump against the plate glass wall of an aquarium day after day, sometimes for a year, in the effort to catch things outside.

The elements of consciousness in the mind of a fish foot up a total "equivalent, perhaps, to the lowest idocy when measured by human standards." It is possible that the fish's capacity for learning is "about on a level with that of a man in deep sleep or preoccupation."

Birds That Exercise Ingenuity.

Birds building on high trees are not so wary about the concealment of their nests as hedge builders and those that seek the springing corn or grass land for the shelter of their homes, trusting to the loftiness of situation for security. A nest placed upon the ground is in constant danger of exposure. A browsing animal might destroy it. Then the scythe with one sweep occasionally lays bare one or more nests, thereby endangering the eggs or callow nestlings. This renders the parent birds very wary and causes them to practice great ingenuity in their efforts to protect the young birds.

The skylark has been known to carry its egg or offspring to a place of safety after an exposure of the nest, and it has been said its long hind claw—the use of which has puzzled many naturalists—is specially adapted by nature for more easily grasping and transporting its treasures from the source of danger. When the young birds are too bulky to be thus removed the parent bird carries them on its back, though this mode of removal is a somewhat difficult one.—London Tit-Bits.

Jefferson and the Patent Office.

The first patron of our patent system was Thomas Jefferson, who during three years gave his personal attention to every application for a patent. He used to call the secretary of war and the attorney general to examine and scrutinize with him, and they did it so thoroughly that in one year—the first—they granted only three patents. The very first patent of all was given to Samuel Hopkins in 1790 for pearl ashes. Mr. Jefferson held that the patent system was not one for creating revenue, but for encouraging a production of that which is to be of benefit to the whole people. In the first twelve years a single clerk in the state department and a few pigeonholes were all that the business of the office required. Then a Dr. Thornton took charge of it and devoted himself to it as to a hobby.

Spiders Like Music.

A violinist says spiders are notoriously and historically fond of music. At one of his performances the concert hall was made disagreeable by a sudden invasion of spiders, which were drawn by his violin out from the cracks and cranial of the ancient building. They crawled about the floor and on to the stage, and he could see the annoyed audience stamping on the insects. The writer adds that he has known a small garden snake to be attracted by piano playing and a young cat to whisk his tail and prance about most gleefully at the first notes of a French horn. His neck would curve about proudly, his hoofs tread lightly and his ears wag joyously from the tooting began, and he never quieted down till the music ceased.

Peculiar Privileges.

The speaker of the house of commons has several peculiar privileges. Every year he receives a gift from the master of the buckhounds of a buck and doe killed in the royal preserves. This custom goes back so far that there is no record of it. Later in the year the speaker receives another tribute from a different source. The donors on the second occasion are the Cloth Workers' company of London, who send to the speaker of the house of commons and to several of his majesty's ministers a generous width of the best broadcloth to be found in England.

Her Audience.

"How are you getting on with your music, my dear?" inquired a lady of her niece. "Well, of course," replied the niece diffidently. "It wouldn't be proper of me to compliment myself, but some of the neighbors have told me they have stayed awake at night for hours listening to my playing."

The Rule Sued Him.

The new boarder had been three weeks in the house. "It is usual," said the landlady, with great delicacy, "for my boarders to pay as they go."

"Oh, that's all right," he replied affably. "I'm not going for a long time."

Sounded Like It.

"What is that piece you are playing? Is it by Wagner?" "No, the piano is out of tune."—Brooklyn Times.

With the Parslans the writing of poetry and beautiful and witty sayings is described as the "threading of pearls."

WHAT WILL WEATHER BE!

Data for Month of September Compiled By Forecast Official.

The following data, covering a period of 31 years, have been compiled from the weather bureau records at Portland, Or., for the month of October.

TEMPERATURE.

Mean or normal temperature, 54 deg. The warmest month was that of 1901, with an average of 59 deg. The coldest month was that of 1893, with an average of 50 deg.

The highest temperature was 83 deg. on the 7th, 1891.

The lowest temperature was 31 deg. on the 31st, 1877, and on the 30th, 1893.

Average date on which first "killing" frost occurred in autumn, Nov. 15.

Average date on which last "killing" frost occurred in spring, March 17.

PRECIPITATION

(Rain and melted snow.) Average for the month, 3.52 inches.

Average number of days with .01 of an inch or more, 13.

The greatest monthly precipitation was 11.58 inches in 1882.

The least monthly precipitation was a trace in 1895.

The greatest amount of precipitation recorded in any 24 consecutive hours was 2.96 in. on the 9th and 10th, 1882.

The greatest amount of snow all recorded in any 24 consecutive hours (record extending to winter of 1884-85 only, was inches on 18.

CLOUDS AND WEATHER.

Average number of clear days, 8; partly cloudy days, 11; cloudy days, 12.

WIND.

The prevailing winds have been from the northwest.

The highest velocity of the wind was 42 miles, from the southeast on the 23d, 1897.

Station: Portland, Oregon.

Date of issue: Sept. 28, 1903.

EDWARD A. BEALS, District Forecaster Weather Bureau.

The Columbia River Seen from a "Regulator Line Excursion Steamer."

It is a custom to apply fanciful titles to American rivers, mountains and lakes in simile to those of other countries. Thus we hear of "The American Rhine," "The Switzerland of America," "The American Alps," and so on, and here on the magnificent Columbia River, in all its wealth of scenery, we may find another Rhine. The towering snow-capped mountains, gorges, ravines, water-falls and even cataracts duplicate and even excel the famous scenery of Switzerland, and for the desire of being able to say "When I was abroad" thousands of Americans are willing to be ignorant of their own country in not seeing some of the finest scenery of the world as is here on the Columbia.

In a tour of the West it is the thing to do, and the one thing not to be missed—the voyage on the Columbia river between Portland and The Dalles—that is made in one day's daylight on board of the splendid boats of the Regulator Line, and the people of Oregon and Washington should make it a point to remind their friends that are coming from the East not to miss making a trip on this beautiful river.

Your ardent admirer makes the trip up and down both ways, on the boats, as it gives opportunity to pay leisurely attention to both sides of the river and for the views ahead on the going and returning voyage. But the man in a hurry may go up on the boat, returning by rail, or vice versa, or the passengers west bound may leave the train at The Dalles and go down the Columbia river by boat to Portland.

The Regulator Line palatial excursion steamer "Bailey Gatzert" leaves Portland every morning (except Monday) at 8:50 to Cascade Locks and returns, right in the heart of the Cascade Mountains, affording an excellent one day trip to view the magnificent scenery and also enjoy the exhilarating ride through the famous rapids of the Cascades, returning arrive in Portland about 7 P. M. The round trip fare to Cascade Locks is \$1.50, round trip to The Dalles \$2.50, one way fare from Portland to The Dalles or vice versa \$1.50. The meals are excellent and served on all steamers of this line.

R. L. Holman, leading undertaker Oregon City, Oregon. March 27-41

THE GIRL HE LEFT BEHIND HIM—Violent Ross, of Portland, has brought suit in the Clackamas county circuit court for a divorce from Orval Ross, to whom she was married in Portland in August, 1899, and whom she alleges deserted her. Plaintiff also asks for the custody of a minor child. In addition to desertion, the plaintiff alleges cruel treatment as grounds for asking that the pair be legally separated.

A Cough... Ayer's Cherry Pectoral... "I have made a most thorough trial of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral and am prepared to say that for all diseases of the lungs it never disappoints." J. Early Finley, Ironton, O.

ZERO AN ANCIENT TERM.

It Was in Use in Babylon Thirty-six Centuries Ago.

The term zero, which is used to designate a cipher and in meteorology the entire absence of heat in the atmosphere, was, according to a mathematical historian, Moritz Cantor, used by the Babylonians about the year 1700 B. C. This, however, is merely a supposition. It has not been definitely established that zero was in use any earlier than 430 A. D. About this time it was used in India, and several centuries later the Arabs began to employ it. Through the Arabs its use became known to Europeans during the twelfth century. It was not generally adopted in Europe until several centuries later, notwithstanding its great advantages. For a considerable time there were two parties among the European educators. One party, known as the algorists, favored the adoption of the Hindoo system of notation (falsely called Arabic), with its position values, while the other, known as the abacists, favored the Roman notation, without zero or position value.

The general adoption of the Hindoo system was greatly facilitated by the facts that it was explained in most of the calendars for more than a century, beginning with 1300, and that the mediaeval universities frequently offered courses devoted to the use of this notation.—Chicago Tribune.

An American Waterloo.

Wellington at Waterloo and Meade at Gettysburg each held the highlands against his antagonist. Wellington on Mount Saint Jean and Meade on Cemetery Ridge had the birdseye view of the forces of attack. The English batteries on the plateau and the Union batteries on Cemetery Heights commanded alike the intervening undulations across which the charging columns must advance. Behind Mount Saint Jean, to conceal Wellington's movements from Napoleon's eyes, were the woodlands of Soignes. Behind Cemetery Ridge, to conceal Meade's movements from the field glasses of Lee, was a sharp declivity, a protecting and helpful depression. As the French under Napoleon at Waterloo, so the Confederates under Lee at Gettysburg held the weaker position. In both cases the assailants sought to expel their opponents from the stronger lines. I might add another resemblance in the results which followed. Waterloo decreed the destiny of France, of England, of Europe. Gettysburg, not so directly or immediately, but practically, decided the fate of the Confederacy.—General John B. Gordon in Scribner's.

Ladies Who Wore Knives.

In early English days knives were worn by Englishwomen in imitation of the ancients, a dagger carried at the girdle. Chaucer speaks of them in the prologue to his "Canterbury Tales." His knives were y-shaped not with brass, but all with silver wrought, full clean and well.

In Ross church, Herefordshire, is a monument to a lady of the Ruddle family, temp. Henry VIII., who wears a purse and a knife. Brand tells us that knives were formerly part of the accoutrements of a bride. In a play, temp. "Edward III.," occurs the passage:

Here by my side do hang my wedding knives.

In the "Archaeologia" Mr. Douce, the antiquary, wrote a paper on this practice of wearing knives by European ladies in the sixteenth century, and an engraving shows a specimen of a case of these wedding knives, dated 1619, which are described as having amber handles and cases of purple velvet embroidered with gold.

Some Pygmy Animals.

A species of dwarf elephant used to live on the island of Malta and in various parts of Italy. Judging from the bones which remain, these animals, about the size of a large sheep, were somewhat numerous. A dwarf elephant is a rarity now and no longer forms a distinct species, but is considered rather a freak.

A very beautiful species of pygmy deer is found on the Sunda islands. These little creatures are not much larger than a cat, but have all the points of a "well bred" deer.

Among horses Shetland ponies are the pygmies. The ordinary mule of central Africa is a pygmy, or dwarf, of only about twenty inches in height at the shoulder and three feet in length.

Making Sure of Him.

"I think," said the thoughtful mother, "that you ought to object to young Brown paying so much attention to our daughter."

"Why?" demanded the thoughtless father. "He impresses me very favorably."

"That's just it," returned the thoughtful mother. "We must do something to make his ambitious mother think we regard ourselves a little above them socially if we are to make sure of him."

A Hint to Go.

"I have something to tell you before I go," he finally said.

"Is it a long story?" she hastily asked.

"No; it is a very short one."

"Then I think you will just have time," she sweetly said.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Her References.

"I don't like these references," said the housewife.

"Well, mum," returned the applicant for a position, "I didn't write 'em, so it ain't my fault. If you don't like 'em jest you go to the people as gave 'em to me an' tell 'em so."—Chicago Post.

A Definition.

"Pa, what is a fray?" "Why, my son, that is what a person who has never been in a fight calls it."—Puck.

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