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PORTO RICO'S FAIR MAIDENS.

Love-Making Is Somewhat Difficult Down at San Juan.

Augusto Ortiz, of San Juan, Porto Rico, said to a Baltimore Sun reporter: "San Juan is a pretty town, with lots of colors and a gay people. They dress nearly like you here, except concerning the trousers. The men wear a coat and vest, collar and shirt, like Americans; but the trousers are half Spanish and half French, very wide to the knee and very tight below.

"The girls have a hard time, not nearly as nice as the Baltimore girls, and the young men have lots of trouble in making love. The girls wear gowns like those here, but arrange their hair with a swoop that takes it back off the forehead to a knot in the back, and sometimes it hangs all the way down without a knot. It is very pretty, but still they have a hard time. Why, a young girl there cannot go out alone like one can here, but she must take some older friend or some relative as a chaperon. At home, when a young man calls to see his girl, if he is much in love it makes him very, mad to find either a father or a mother or older sister sitting in the same room, and they will sit there until he goes. Really, the only chance a fellow has to talk to the girls without some one hearing all he says is at the dances, which are given every week at the different clubs, and even then he has to talk to her quickly while he is dancing, for when they stop she has to go back to her mother, or sister, or aunt, or somebody. The young men, however, make the best of the dances. When you want to marry a girl you have to ask her parents first of all, because you get no chance to ask the girl. This is a very bad custom. Both men and women in San Juan and all over the island wear clothes of much more color than Americans, and you rarely see a dark suit of clothes on a man. The girls are gay, with all the colors of the rainbow, and with more of a chance to see them without chaperons life there would be very pleasant."

GIANT ELEPHANT'S TUSK.

Brought Out of Interior of German East Africa, and Weighs 241 Pounds.

A gigantic elephant's tusk has been brought from the interior of German East Africa. A native was the fortunate hunter who bagged the trophy, and it is said that the fellow tusk was only a trifle smaller. The big tusk weighs 241 pounds.

The two tusks were brought by way of Bagamoyo to Zanzibar, where an American acquired them at a fancy price. Some idea can be formed of the gigantic size of the elephant when it is

GIANT ELEPHANT'S TUSK.

known that it carried about with it an appendage of nearly 500 pounds in tusks!

Elephants of this size are becoming rarer every day. The merciless war of extermination carried on for years against the elephant by ivory hunters has been only too successful. Where once immense herds were to be seen, a man now may travel for hundreds of miles in the vain search for those forest monsters. They tend to retire further and further from the coast in quest of solitudes as yet uninvaded by man.

FLIES ARE VERY SHORT-LIVED.

Two Weeks Is About the Average of Their Earthly Existence.

"Owing to the natural diffidence of flies, not much is known of their family arrangements or how long they live after they get to be old enough to vote. It is estimated, though, that if papa and mamma of the early spring could hold out to attend a family reunion of their offspring held in the latter part of August upward of 2,000,000 of their own blood and kin would come to the picnic, not counting maggots in arms. Fortunately for them, papa and mamma do not live much more than a fortnight. Even a fly's perseverance would be unequal to the task of keeping track of 2,000,000 of descendants. As Artemus Ward says, 'This is 2 mutch.'

"Fortunately for us, flies do not live much longer than a fortnight, for if they were long-lived and preserved their fecundity man would soon be forced to look for some place where things were not quite so crowded and the real estate advertising columns would be full of, 'Why fight flies? Secure a planet of your own on easy monthly payments.'

"However, it is well to point out that the saving clause, 'it is estimated,' corrects the 2,000,000. Scientific men are just like other people and hate just as much to have to say: 'I don't know,' to a plain question. They have learned that 'it is estimated' acts on the same principle as a boy's 'over the left,' and authorizes them to tell with impunity the most jaw-dropping, eye-bulging whoppers, causing the public to wag heads and cluck: "Tchk! Look at that now! There's learning for you!"

"There is a good deal of the 'it is estimated' about the life history of the fly, for the reason that the beast is hard to rear. Other insects will live, move and have their being in a box with a gauze over it and let in the air and light. All they ask is board and lodging, and, like the curios in a dime museum, they will answer any and all proper questions, photographs for sale for their special benefit. But fit up the most luxurious quarters for flies, well aired and lighted, stock with all the delicacies of the stable and the garbage box, and the inmates incontinently turn up their toes and die. While the entomologist wonders what for, a fly buzzes past his ear. He chases it away. It comes back. He slaps at it. It dodges, buzzing gleefully, and alights again. He flutters his hand and shoos it from him. He thinks it is simply another case of fly perseverance. He does not know, he cannot understand, that it is mocking his failure with the cry of: 'A-a-a-a-ah! Did you ever get left?'"

KEEPS THE WHEELS GREASED.

Convenient Automatic Oiling Device for Vehicles.

The labor of oiling wagon wheels by the usual method is somewhat arduous, and he who can perform the task without soiling the hands and clothes is an exception to the general rule. With the idea of doing away with the necessity for removing the wheels every time the axles are oiled Van Don

AUTOMATIC OILER.

Roe, of Maury City, Tenn., has designed the automatic oiler illustrated herewith. It consists of an elongated oil-cup secured to the hub between two spokes, with an opening cut through the hub and box to allow the oil to flow to the shaft. Inside the oil-cup is a weighted plunger, which reciprocates at each revolution of the wheel, thus forcing a small quantity of oil through the minute opening in the wheel box. The force of the fall of the plunger is broken by a coiled spring at either end of the internal chamber, thus making the device noiseless, and it is only necessary to fill the cups at long intervals to keep the shafts and boxes in good condition.

PLANETARY MOVEMENTS.

True Theory Advanced by Ancient Philosopher Pythagoras.

In the earliest times in which men began to give anything like scientific attention to the movements of the heavenly bodies, the planets or "wanderers," as their name implies, appear to have been regarded sometimes as living beings, mostly deified heroes, and sometimes as the abodes of these beings. The men of these ages naturally took what they saw for granted and believed the earth to be the center of the universe, with the sun, moon and other heavenly bodies moving round it. In course of time, as observation became more exact, the irregularity of the apparent orbits of the planets was noted and accounted for by fixing them in revolving crystalline spheres or zones, the smaller inclosing the earth and the rest outside working at varying distances and at varying speeds. In each of these a planet was fixed, and so the irregularity was accounted for, swiftness or slowness of revolution being taken as a criterion of proximity or distance. This was practically the theory adopted in what is called the Ptolemaic system. This system had been shaping itself from the times of Plato and Aristotle, and remained generally accepted until the demonstrations of Copernicus demolished it. It is, however, well worthy of note that Pythagoras, about five centuries before Christ, had advanced the true theory of the universe, that is to say, the revolution of the earth and its sister planets round the sun. This, however, conflicted strongly with the preconceived ideas of the philosophers of Greece and Rome, and subsequently with those of the theologians, who considered that they were bound to consider the earth as the center as well as the end and aim of creation. Hence, it was not until something like 2,000 years after the death of Pythagoras that his theory was practically confirmed by the astronomers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

SERENADED THE JAIL.

Ludicrous Error of an Organ-Grinder in St. Paul.

A wandering minstrel, who started his wanderings in the neighborhood of Genoa, pushed his hand organ up Fifth street the other afternoon about 5 o'clock. When he got halfway up the hill he stopped, looked up at the window in which Mr. Southall keeps the little geranium which solaces his imprisonment, swung the organ around off his back and began to play. The flower had set life wrong. He didn't know it was the county jail and he wouldn't know yet but for the fact that he started to play the dear old tune, "I Never Care to Wander from the Old Fireside." Somebody threw a piece of stale bread at him from the window of the boys' ward and he moved on.—St. Paul Globe.

New War Balloon Invented.

An officer in the Austrian army in Vienna has invented balloons which will float both men and horses across a river. They are to be fastened to the belts around the men and the harness of the horses.

When a young man finds that he can make two girls believe the same compliment, he begins to look upon himself as the Real Thing.

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