

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

# Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

### CHINESE SNAKE STONE.

Curious Oriental Product Which is Said to Cure Poisonous Bites.

Ben R. Spradley, a attaché of the St. Louis sanitarium, at 1635 South Grand avenue, has in his possession one of the most curious and what he asserts to be one of the most useful and valuable of articles. It is what is known as a Chinese snake stone, and there is said to be but one other in the country. Indeed the one in Mr. Spradley's possession is but half a one, the original having been cut in two by Mr. Spradley and half of it given to a friend. In appearance the stone looks like a small piece of oblong shaped camel coal and is about one-eighth of an inch in thickness, three-eighths of an inch wide and half an inch long. It is as light in weight as a piece of cork, possesses a polished surface and can be easily cut with a knife. It is not a stone, in the proper sense of the word, but is a manufactured article and is of a porous texture.

To cure snake bites or poisonous wounds of a similar nature with the "stone" the wound must first be scarified. Then the stone is applied to the wound. Each morning and evening it is taken off and put into a glass of lukewarm water to remain a few moments until it discharges the poison it has absorbed. Then, after the wound has been washed in a strong solution of salt water and again scarified, the stone, which in the meantime has been rubbed in warm ashes until dry, is again applied. If this treatment is kept up for nine days and the patient abstains during that time from spirituous liquors a cure is assured.

"I secured the stone," said Mr. Spradley, "from my father more than 30 years ago. He got it from James J. Parker, the man who made it. From 1874 to 1877 I was with the party which was putting through the Texas Pacific railroad, and during that time cured several of the party who were bitten by rattlers and other poisonous snakes. I have frequently loaned the stone to friends, and I cut the original in two, giving half of it to a particular friend of mine. I have not used the stone for some time, but am ready to give a test of its merits at any time."

"It is, you see, not properly a stone, but is a manufactured substance of a porous nature. The theory possessed by many that so called 'madstones' are found in the stomachs of animals is all nonsense. They are all manufactured in a manner similar to this, and it is simply their 'drawing' powers and their porosity and consequent capacity for absorption that renders them valuable."

—St. Louis Republic.

### It Didn't Prove Suitable.

"We can let you have the bridal chamber," ventured the genial hotel clerk as he rubbed his hands and looked confidentially across the register at the youngish couple.

"That is very kind of you," replied the young man as he drew a nervous flourish beneath the abbreviation "and wife" and laid down the pen. "But we contemplate remaining ten days or so, and you might not be disturbed."

"You shall not be disturbed. I assure you," continued the clerk, "and the apartment is a lovely one."

"Aisy?" asked the young man.

"As to that," and a gleam of intense pride surmounted the clerk's face, "I will say that the room contains seven windows, all opening upon tiny verandas."

The young couple looked at each other. Then the young woman spoke.

"I don't think we shall care for that room. You see, our three children will be here with their nurse in the morning. They can all climb like goats, and I'm sure they would be falling off those verandas inside of 15 minutes."

"Fruit," murmured the clerk in a voice that betrayed deep emotion, "show this gentleman and this lady up to the sky floor and have the maid put the nursery in order."—Truth.

### Glad She Lives in America.

"I'm glad I live in America," said a pretty young woman, talking to a Philadelphia inquirer reporter, "because I am never afraid to travel by myself. Last year I was in London and went around with a friend who is married, and we were spoken to in an insulting manner every time we went out. Paris was still worse. People speak of the French politeness, but it is only a veneer. The men would get in front of us on every street corner and smirk and ogle and chatter like monkeys. I'm glad I didn't understand anything they said. There are no men like the American men, and I never was so fully able to appreciate it as I am, now I have seen those of other nations in their own lands. Besides, the girls are treated better here than anywhere else on earth, and I don't want to cross the ocean any more."

### A Humble Archbishop.

Willegis, a famous archbishop of Metz, rose to that elevated position from the very lowest ranks. He was the son of a poor carter, but was never ashamed of his parentage. He not only caused the following inscription to be placed conspicuously in his palace, "Willegis, remember thy parentage," but had the wheels of a cart hung up in the cathedral of Metz. From that time this the arms of the see have borne the figure of a cart wheel.—Brooklyn Eagle.

### When Gas Was New.

When it was first proposed to light the streets of London with gas, great objection was made by the public and newspapers of the ground that the people would be poisoned, that the trees and vegetation would all be killed, and that domestic animals could not possibly survive the deadly fumes.

### The Catholic Apostolic Church.

The Catholic apostolic church, a dissenting body, has ten organizations in this country, with three churches and seven halls, all having a joint capacity of 1,100 and a value of \$60,000. The membership numbers 1,994.

### FAMOUS SINGLE PEARLS.

The Shah of Persia Has One Delicate Gem Worth Over Half a Million.

It is not generally appreciated that there are enormous fortunes in single pearls, and that a few individuals and great potentates have jewels of this sort which are literally worth a king's ransom. In all the world there is no more famous pearl than the Tavernier, now in the possession of the shah of Persia. This remarkable gem came to this eastern king by descent and is a genuinely remarkable curiosity. It derives its name from having been sold by the traveler Tavernier 200 years ago to the then ruler of Persia. The price then was \$500,000. It is now worth more than \$650,000.

Another eastern king, the imam of Muscat, has in his collection a pearl worth \$165,000, weighing 12 1/2 carats. Through it the daylight can be seen. Princess Yousouppoff's finest gem is wonderfully beautiful. Valued at \$180,000, it was first heard of in 1630, when George of Calais sold it to Philip IV of Spain. Eighty thousand dollars is the figure that it is approximated the pope's pearl would bring. One of Leo's predecessors became possessed of it in a manner which has not been told, and it has descended in regular course to the present incumbent of St. Peter's throne.

This, so far as is known, exhausts the list of truly remarkable pearls. There are many other pearls of value. These pearls are made up gradually, pearl after pearl being added to the set, and leading jewelers are constantly on the lookout to procure gems of like rarity to extend the chain. On the whole, pink pearls are not especially valuable, pink ones bringing far higher prices, and pearls that are white being sought next after them. Queen Victoria of England has a necklace of pink pearls that is worth \$80,000, and the dowager empress of Germany one made of 32 pearls which would bring easily \$125,000.

The Rothschild women have, however, gems of this sort that far exceed in value those of royalty. Baroness Gustave de Rothschild possesses one made up of five rows of pearls, the whole chain being valued at \$300,000. Baroness Adolphe de Rothschild owns a circlet that in all probability would fetch even at a forced sale \$350,000.

Even more brilliant, because it has seven rows, is the necklace of the dowager empress of Russia. The gems, however, are not quite as fine as those in the Rothschild collection. The case of this royal lady is the most famous in the world from a gem point of view. Hardly second to it is that of the empress of Austria, whose black pearls are noted throughout Europe for their extreme beauty and rarity.

What has become of the white pearls of the Empress Eugenie, sold at the close of the Franco-Prussian war, has never been made known. The value of these was some \$60,000, and they were gathered together in a very beautiful necklace that frequently graced the neck of that unfortunate queen.—New York World.

### The Chinese.

The merchant class of China is composed of polite, patient, extremely shrewd, well dressed, pattern shopkeepers. The leisure class is graceful, polished and amiable, but the peasantry remind one of the country folk of Europe, excepting Russia.

As compared with Japan, one feature of every view is strikingly in favor of China. The dress and behavior of the Chinese will not offend Europeans. The women are modest and dress in a baggy garment which completely covers them.

In spite of their modesty Chinese girls do flirt and in proper European fashion. At church they make eyes at the young men and on the way to school.

The most beautiful women of China are of Soo-Chow. They are, as a rule, prettier than the women of Japan.

The Chinese thrash rice by taking a handful and beating a log with it to scatter the kernels on the ground. The farmers break up the soil and punch holes in it for seeds with a stick.

Women who are married wear their hair in a coil held in place by a narrow bar of gilt metal or imitation jade stone. The young girls wear the coil at one side of the head and stick a white flower in.—Exchange.

### The Thorough Woman.

Thoroughness would be a good onward cry for the advancing woman—I say advancing with emphasis, for really the advanced women are not on hand in any considerable number.

To a large extent those who are to be of value when they arrive are holding back for good equipment.

They know that men require proper mental habilitment for the war of life, and the first rate women who expect to cope—not fight—with first rate men in the struggle of the world realize that they must be prepared to halt for repairs. And thoroughness is a mighty fine battleship.

Putting on a little veneer and pretending to know never deceives ourselves, and rarely any one else, save for a very short time. Life, like love, is a lever, and if we live among folks they soon find out just how much we don't know, and the weak spots in our armor become the bulwarks for their shafts.

I tell you the trumpet blast of progress isn't "all cry and no wool!"—Polly Pry in New York Recorder.

### The Point of Touch.

Mrs. McSwatters—And what did the doctor say?  
The Invalid—He didn't say anything. He just touched me.  
Mrs. McSwatters—Your pulse?  
The Invalid—No; my pocketbook.—Syracuse Post.

### "Take no thought for the morrow."

is now understood in an entirely different manner from that in which it was intended when the King James version was prepared. Then the expression "to take thought" was universal as a synonym for anxious solicitude.

## BEDS OF THE LONG AGO

IN EARLY DAYS THE KING'S BEST BED WAS OF STRAW.

At One Time They Were the Most Important Furniture of the House—Bequeathed by Will to Favorites—The Great Ware Bed That Held Twelve Persons.

The bed in our country can only lay claim to some 800 years or so of active use. The learned find themselves unable to say for certain when Anglo-Saxon man exchanged the hard bosom of mother-of-earth for the artificial but soothing delights of the bed. But, roughly speaking, one may place the introduction of the bed into England at about the tenth century.

It was a poor, uncomfortable thing, that bed of long ago, a mere rough hewn bench, on which the sleeper tossed wearily until daylight bade him rise. The evolutionary process, however, went on quickly with us, and the bed soon became a leading feature of the English home, affording the sleeper the necessary comfort and coziness.

It may well be imagined that our forefathers set great store upon their costly beds. One reason for the lavish ornamentation of the bed was that it was almost the only piece of furniture in the Englishman's house of that day of any considerable value. The upholsterer's art was a thing of slow growth, and for centuries Englishmen of wealth and station put up with discomforts which would drive our modern Lazarus into frantic revolt. Coarse wooden stools, settees and benches, with an oaken chest or two and a rough table, comprised for the most part the furniture of the English home of those far-off days. There was no temptation to lavish the resources of art upon these poor movables, and consequently everything went toward the decoration and embellishment of the bed.

The entry in Shakespeare's will bequeathing his second best bed to his wife has amused and puzzled many people, but the post was only following an old and general custom in making a distinct and separate bequest of one of his most precious household possessions. It had for more than two centuries been the regular custom to "leave" beds by express stipulation of the testator. Thus in 1556 we find Elizabeth, countess of Northampton, bequeathing her daughter an embroidered bed of red worsted. Agnes, countess of Pembroke, in 1567 left her daughter a bed "with the furniture of her father's arms."

Edward, the Black Prince, in 1376 bequeathed to "our son Richard the bed which the king our father gave us; to Sir Roger Clarendon, a silk bed; to Sir Robert de Walsingham, our confessor, a large bed of red camor, with our arms embroidered at each corner." The Black Prince's widow was as generous as her departed husband in making gifts of beds. She left "to my dear son, the king (Richard II), my new bed of red velvet, embroidered with ostrich feathers of silver and heads of leopards of gold, with boughs and leaves issuing out of their mouths."

A bed of this rich and sumptuous quality would be a couch fit even for a king to lie upon. But for choice coming to us to the beds that Lady Bergavenny bequeathed in 1434—"a bed of gold swans, with taper of green tawesty, with branches and flowers of divers colors, and two pairs of sheets of Raynes; a pair of fustians, six pairs of other sheets; a bed of cloth of gold with leopards; a bed of blue bardekyne—that is, silk, gold and embroidery—and a bed of silk, black and red, embroidered with woodland flowers in silver."

This bequeathing of beds was a strictly observed custom from the thirteenth to the middle of the eighteenth century. The last bequest of a bed that we know of occurs in a will proved as late as 1773. In 1711 Bishop Burnet gave the bed and furniture of his best bedchamber, four pairs of Holland sheets and three pairs of common sheets, for the use of servants, to his son William, and distributed his remaining beds among his other children.

The beds for the most part were filled with straw. Flocks and feathers were used, it is true, but as a rule the English gentry, from the thirteenth till past the sixteenth century, were content to sleep on beds of straw. It was the outside of their beds that they chiefly concerned themselves with. If the family beds were made of velvet or bardekyne and all was well. Even the English kings slept on straw. In the accounts of King James I's privy purse we find the entry, "Straw for the king's bed, xijl. xva."

The bedstead was also in receipt of much thoughtful attention on the part of the owner, and not a few of which, thanks to the enduring ark of which they are made, have come down to us in unimpaired strength and dignity. The old time bedstead was a portentous affair, with its solemn pillars, its canopies and hangings. The bedstead itself did not always go in the bequest with the bed, and hence we find in many old houses throughout England bedsteads in which have rested whole generations of sleepers.

Perhaps the most famous of old English bedsteads is the great bed of Ware. An ancient couch this, and not wanting the honors of literary mention. Shakespeare gave it a friendly notice in "Twelfth Night," where Sir Toby Belch refers to "as many lies that will lie in the sheet of paper, although the sheet were big enough for the bed of Ware in England." The big bed was put together in Queen Elizabeth's time, and it is of most portentous size. It measures 10 feet 9 inches in length by 10 feet 9 inches in breadth and is over 7 feet in height. There is a legend that no less than 12 people slept in it at one time.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Yudkin, the Versatile.

Of Yudkin, the pawnbroker, a local paper says: "It has been Yudkin, the peddler; Yudkin, the pawnbroker; Yudkin, the dealer in second-hand furniture; Yudkin, the liverman; Yudkin, the shoe dealer; Yudkin, the undertaker, and to the list is now added Yudkin, the barber. He carries on at the present, all of the above kinds of business."

Choosing Between Two Perils.

During the past two weeks 21 persons have been baptized at Princeton in the cold waters of Ochoo creek, and others are waiting for warmer water, taking their chances meanwhile with other sinners.—Portland Oregonian.

## THE FASHION PLATE.

Unlimited favor will be given to velvet next season.

Many of the rough cloth jackets are made in reefer shape.

Some of the new fur capes are finished with vest fronts of contrasting fur.

Some very elegant black costumes are prepared for dressy autumn wear.

The twilled tartan goods make stylish costumes with a vest of plain goods elaborately braided.

Among the novelties for cool weather wear are fur sailor collars finished around the entire edge and long pointed fronts with a deep fringe of sable tails.

The great rage for crepon fabrics has resulted, as usual, in the production of cheap grades of it which will turn downy looking and rusty in two months' time.

The highly fashionable modiste has condemned the blouse waist, but this is not likely to kill it, for stylish and elegant looking blouses in satin and velvet are among the handsome autumn garments.

Many green and black and red and black color mixtures appear among autumn dress goods, and narrow striped tailor mixtures in heather colors are used for fall traveling and shopping costumes.

The long feather boa is appearing again and is being worn this season in very striking colors—pale blue, red, amber brown, green and deep yellow. These are startling and uncommon, but in very questionable taste.

It is noticed that velvet sleeves appear on many of the crepon, mohair and other woolen gowns, while silken costumes, on the contrary, have sleeves and accessories of satin or velvet striped faille or other lustrous corded silks.—New York Post.

## STAGE GLINTS.

Philippi's "Benefactor of Mankind" is to be played in French in Paris.

Charles Leclercq's place in the Daly company will probably be filled by Tyrone Power.

Charles William Farnum and Mabel Eaton Robinson were married recently in New York.

Harrison J. Wolfe, a new star, will produce "The Corsican Brothers" and "David Garrick."

Elen Blythe has made a distinct hit as Leah and in her new play, "Reaping the Harvest."

Henri Lee's "Der Schlagbaum" is a success in Berlin. This author's dramas are sensational and dramatic.

Louis Aldrich may go out this season. Joseph Brooks has made a proposition to him to play the Crane plays.

John Drew will soon produce at the Empire theater, New York, Madeleine Lucette Byley's comedy, "Christopher, Jr."

J. Aldrich Libbey is leading baritone of the Jules Grant Opera company, and his wife, Kate Trayer, is also a member of the organization.

Frank M. Wills of "Two Old Cronies" fame and Harry Brown, the well known comic opera comedian, have signed contracts for a five years' starring tour.

Nita Carritte, formerly with the Carl Rosa Opera company, has been engaged by J. C. Duff to sing Beatrice, the prima donna role in Pearsall Thorne's new opera.

"The Midnight Special" is the work of William L. Bullauf, Jr., treasurer of the Lyceum theater, Washington. Mr. Bullauf has another new play, entitled "Across the Hills."

## GREAT MEN'S READING.

Beethoven was fond of history and novels.

Wagner was a close student of musical history and made that line of reading a specialty.

Bulwer-Lytton's favorite author was Horace. He always carried a small edition in his pocket.

Moliere was a reader of romances. His plays give many evidences of his excellent memory.

Cortes always carried in his bosom a little prayer book, which he religiously read from beginning to end every month.

Gregory the Great said that the world did not elsewhere contain such wisdom as was to be found in the epistles of Paul.

Alexander the Great always slept with a copy of Homer under his pillow. His life was modeled after that of Achilles.

Mrs. Hemans was a lover of the Spanish romances and often entertained a small domestic audience with one of these tales.

A BIG REGULAR ARMY.

The mightiest host of this sort is the army of invalids whose bowels, livers and stomachs have been regulated by Hostetter's Bitters. A regular habit of body is brought about through using the Bitters, not by violently agitating and griping the intestine, but by reinforcing their energy and causing a flow of the bile into its proper channel. Malaria, grippe, dyspepsia, and a tendency to inactivity of the kidneys, are conquered by the Bitters.

Miss Quinzer—Do you believe all the disagreeable things you read in the newspapers?  
Miss Busbus—I do if they're about people I know.

After six years' suffering, I was cured by Pisco's Cure.—MAY THOMPSON, 29 1-2 Ohio avenue, Allegheny, Pa., March 19, 1884.

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## SOUND SLEEPERS.

Some very hardy, warm-blooded people forget that summer is gone and sleep soundly under light covering, even while Jack Frost is painting weird pictures on the panes. But we all learn by experience, and they find themselves in the morning suffering with stiffness, soreness, lame back, stiff neck or muscular cramps. Still, experience teaches, like everybody else, they get a bottle of St. Jacobs Oil, rub well with it, and are cured. Warmer clothing, and the frost shut out, they snore again happily, while from the towers of winter's storm clouds the sentry cries, "All's well."

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Is the result of the usual treatment of blood disorders. The system is filled with Mercury and I suffered from a severe attack of Mercurial Poison, my arms and legs being swollen to twice their natural size, causing the most excruciating pains. I spent hundreds of dollars without relief, but after taking a few bottles of SSS, I improved rapidly and am now a well man, completely cured. I can heartily recommend it to any one suffering from this painful disease. W. R. DALEY, Brooklyn Elevated R. R.

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For which S.S.S. is the most reliable cure. A few bottles will afford relief where all else has failed. I suffered from a severe attack of Mercurial Rheumatism, my arms and legs being swollen to twice their natural size, causing the most excruciating pains. I spent hundreds of dollars without relief, but after taking a few bottles of SSS, I improved rapidly and am now a well man, completely cured. I can heartily recommend it to any one suffering from this painful disease. W. R. DALEY, Brooklyn Elevated R. R.

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