

Science AND INVENTION

Forty-five tons is the record weight ever pulled by a pair of horses. This was in the shape of bark loaded on a sleigh and pulled on ice.

Dueling is made a safe pastime by Dr. Devillers, of Paris, who has provided a kind of chalk bullet that leaves only a harmless mark where it hits.

Persons threatened with cataract of the eye are cautioned by Dr. George Wherry against the use of sugar. Opacity of the lens has been found to follow the administration of much sugar to fishes and certain other animals.

Prof. D. J. Cunningham, of Dublin, in a recent lecture, described the inherited nature of right-handedness in man. He also made some very interesting statements about the location, in the brain, of the center of speech. In all right-handed persons this center is on the left side of the brain. But in left-handed persons the speech center is shifted to the other side, so that, as Prof. Cunningham says, "The left-handed speak from the right brain."

Recent experiments in France have shown that the yellow and green colors possessed by the silk spun by certain caterpillars are due to coloring matter derived from the food, and passed through the blood of the spinners. By impregnating leaves with artificial colors the experimenters caused some species of caterpillars to produce silk of bright orange-yellow and fine rose hues. By the aid of the spectroscope the presence and nature of colored pigments in the blood of the little animals was established.

It has been demonstrated that freshly dug peat may contain as much as 90 per cent of water, and that air-dried turf may still have 15 to 30 per cent of water, while giving as much as one-half to two-thirds of the heating power of an equal weight of superior coal. A report on a "carbonized peat fuel" estimates roughly that ten tons of raw material, freshly dug, yield the calorific value of at least one ton of fairly good coal. These figures give a basis for interesting speculations, and one conclusion is that the peat of Ireland could give an annual output of 100,000 horse power in electric energy for 1,250 years.

The green vegetable growth discovered by a German physician is believed to be not rare in the contents of the stomach. It consists of two kinds of cells, as seen under the microscope, but is believed to represent various forms of algae that are introduced with drinking water and food, and develop in the presence of acid. The growth has been noticed chiefly in cases of considerable acidity of the stomach. It is remarkable that these new algae are favored by an excess of hydrochloric acid, while the ordinary algae of stagnant water are killed by a little hydrochloric acid is added. Just how important a part this vegetation plays is yet to be learned.

One of the most entertaining of recent chapters in natural history is that which relates to the many curious means that birds and other animals possess of deceiving the eyes of their enemies. E. Sandys, in writing of upland game birds, calls attention to a remarkable and beautiful instance. When the ptarmigan puts on its winter dress it has a black tail. One might suppose that this would attract attention to the bird crouching on the snow, but it serves for concealment. Every projection on a snow field casts a dark shadow, and that is what the tail of the motionless ptarmigan looks like, the body of the bird resembling a mere hump on the white background.

MARRY OUT OF SPITE.

Many Unions Are Prompted by Anything but Love.

In "Martin Chuzzlewit" the story is told of how Jonas, the mean-souled villain of the book, marries his cousin Charity, not because he loves her, or has the remotest idea of making her happy, but because she has aroused his venomous resentment, and he wishes to have her in his power simply that he may, in his own words, "pay her off." He marries her so that, as his wife, she will be completely at his mercy, and then proceeds with fiendish ingenuity to make her life a misery to her, and it goes so far that the reader is convinced that he would finally have murdered her, had not his own life been abruptly cut short by his own act as his only escape from the gallows.

Critics have styled the episode far-fetched, yet such a marriage has occurred in real life time and again.

Wycherley, the poet, at the gaily youthful age of 96, married a young lady for whom he did not care sixpence, in order to spite his nephew and heir-at-law, who, by virtue of a family settlement, would be compelled to support his uncle's widow as long as she lived. The young fellow had offended the old man, and this marriage was Wycherley's revenge. He died within a few days after the ceremony, but

Mrs. Wycherley lived for many years to flourish on the annuity she owed to anything but her husband's love.

The wife of a merchant named Bernstein had brought with her a large fortune, and when she died she left everything to her husband, on condition that he never married again. If he did, all the money was to pass out of his possession. There was no doubt that Mrs. Bernstein had intended that, on such a contingency, all should go to her three children—two sons and a daughter; but, in consequence of the clumsy drawing up of the will, this all-important point was left very doubtful.

His sons and daughters, when they grew up, knew this, but had no fears that they themselves would inherit all in due course. They were so sure, indeed, that they forgot to be prudent. They all had social ambitions, and the continued presence of the shabby, miserly, bleary-eyed old man on the scene was rather trying to them.

The end of it was that one night, when his undutiful offspring were giving a brilliant entertainment, without consulting, he stole out of the house. They heard no more of him until he was dead, and then found that he had married a poor widow and died a beggar.

Birmingham had the unenviable distinction of harboring Alexander Maclean, who lived in a dingy little back street, and spent most of his time in practices worse than shady, and in terrorizing over his neighbors. He was ultimately arrested and sentenced to three years' penal servitude for fraud. The chief witnesses against him were a father and daughter named Rogers.

While serving his time Maclean brooded over his spite against them, and elaborated a scheme of revenge. Released, he went back to his old house. He seemed an entirely changed character—penitent, humble and hard-working. He visited old Rogers, who trembled violently with fear until the ex-convict held out a friendly hand, and to Mary Rogers herself he was more than civil. So patient and dexterous was he that at last the girl consented to become his wife.

They were duly married, and he took her home. She was disturbed by his peculiar air and expression, but he offered her no explanation. They lived in Dunedin for many years, and she was his devoted wife; while he was kind to her. And the memory of the past faded out of their horizon.

She had never learned the truth—in fact, had never guessed it. In prison Maclean had brooded over his revenge, and returned home to act a part of pretended reformation, and trick her into becoming his wife, that he might have her in his power and make her wretched. The scheme had worked out as planned until after the marriage, and then he had discovered that, without his knowledge, against his will, he had come to love the girl whom he had married out of spite.

DEER HUNTING IN NORTHWEST.

How Indians Secure Venison for Their Larriers.

A New Yorker who lives a small fraction of the time in the city, being usually long distances away in pursuit of game, tells the method pursued by the Indians of British Columbia in taking deer, says a writer in the New York Tribune. They have evolved a system, this huntsman says, that shows practical skill and sympathy and knowledge of natural conditions. He says:

"The Indians, to begin with, do not hunt deer for the pleasure of hunting. They go for deer as a housekeeper goes to market for beef. And, what's more, in British Columbia, at any rate, they don't go often. Salmon are plentiful in the rivers and easily caught. So why chase animals when they can secure fish? It is something as it is in Newfoundland, where I went a couple of seasons ago. There the prevailing fish, you might say, is cod. And, though there is no end to the variety of edible fish that can be taken, the natives never think of eating anything else. Cod is plentiful, and they form the habit, I suppose. This is so ingrained that they call codfish, 'fish,' simply. The genus is divided into cod and the rest of fish.

"Well, when the British Columbia Indian makes up his mind for venison he goes at it systematically and without sentiment. A group of half a dozen or ten men split up and take either end of a valley. Then they proceed along the mountain slope from the two ends to the center. They choose the sheltered side of the valley, which the deer seek to escape the wind. Each party covers the mountain side, some near the foot and some at the top, and others between the line, keeping abreast by an imitated owl hoot. The deer on 'winding' pursuit have a trick of leaping away down the slope, unlike the goats, which go up, and thus between the two approaching parties they are swept together at the middle of the valley. A good-sized herd will thus be killed off and the Indians supplied for many weeks by two or three days' exertion."

If an old man is poor, there is a feeling that he is better off dead, and the expense of his care ended; if he is rich, the same sentiment is entertained, for the reason that others want his money.

WANTED THE CHEST AND GOT IT.

Trials of a Detroit Man Who Thought He'd Cut His Wisdom Teeth.

"I thought I had cut my wisdom teeth a good many years ago," said a Detroitier the other day, "but a little thing happened in Chicago the last week to make me doubt it. In wandering about I entered an auction-room on State street, while some 'family effects,' as the auctioneer termed them, were being sold. There was one old chest which caught my eye, as it appeared to be of ancient make, and must have knocked about a good bit. I looked into it to find a lot of deeds and bonds, and my curiosity was at once aroused. Who could tell what wealth that old chest might hold. If nothing more, there must be deeds to at least 1,000 acres of land in California. I was sawing wood and saying nothing, but expecting to bid on that trunk, when a man beckoned me aside and said:

"I hope you won't bid against me on that chest. The family owed me a debt of \$90, and perhaps the contents will help me to get even."

"I didn't say whether I would or not, and he continued:

"If you'll stand clear and let me bid it in I'll make you a present of \$25 in cash."

"That was enough for me," continued the story teller with a long-drawn sigh. "I shook the man off and started the bidding at \$5. He looked reproachfully at me and went a dollar better. We had the bidding all to ourselves and the auctioneer sized me up as a man who never let go of a good thing and encouraged me from time to time. I thought I had the other fellow downed several times, but he came back at me, and the result was that the chest was knocked down to me for \$85. I hired a cab and had it driven to my hotel with me and I lost no time in going through it."

"And the deeds and bonds?" was asked.

"Just 10 pounds altogether, and worth a cent a pound! It was a 'plant,' of course. They were looking for a sucker, and they found one."

"But you—you—" "Oh, you try to make out that I'm not the biggest ass in the world, but if you'll take the trouble to go up to my house my wife will soon convince you that I lead the procession. Eighty-five of the long green, and my eyes were wide open all the time!"—Detroit Free Press.

A WOMAN'S CURE FOR DIVORCE.

Advocates Plan Which Would Make Separation Matter of Choice.

Dr. Frances Dickinson, president of the Social Economics Club of Chicago, has found, or professes to have found,

a solution for the divorce evil. It is an interesting solution, but one which we believe few persons can accept.

"When people marry," says this twentieth century sage, "they should have two contracts—one to satisfy the demands of the church, and the other a contract just among themselves. In it each should agree to release the other whenever called upon to do so."

By some process of involved thinking Dr. Dickinson argues that such a contract would have the tendency to make each of the parties to the marriage contract more desirous of retaining the other's affections. "There would be," she adds, "less carelessness, less taking things for granted and less indifference in dress and manner among married folk."

Dr. Dickinson is unmarried, and thus finds it as easy to solve problems for other people as the beggar does to advise the millionaire how to spend his money or the childless person to direct parents how to rear their children. She would have people enter into a contract with the church, with a mental reservation attached—the letter of the law without its spirit. The private agreement, according to her, would be in certain contingencies superior to the public contract—the latter for show, the former for use. Such a scheme would make a hollow mockery out of the most sacred relations of life and place the married state on a level with the conditions which prevail among savages. Divorce, as it is, is too easy. To render the married state less binding is to invite disaster to the home and the state.—Utica Globe.

The Louis Styles.

It was the French king, Louis XI, who invented gold lace, and it was Louis XIV. who ordered all the silk upholsteries of the palace done in white with figures of gold and blue and a touch of red. The louisine silks are named after him, and all the French kings of the name of Louis have had their names brought down to posterity through the invention of some article of dress, whether it be a Louis Quinze heel or a Louis Seize coat, while to Louis Quatorze belongs the honor of a cuff and a hat.

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The Main Question.

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Thorne—Who won the game?—Baltimore Sun.

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