

# For the LITTLE ONES



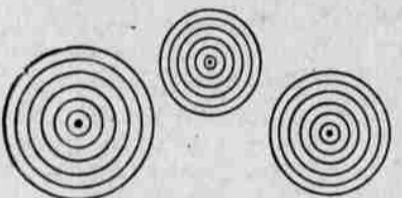
## FEW CLEVER LITTLE TRICKS

Rings Chase Each Other When Paper Is Turned to Right or Left—Hoops Change Positions.

There are some tricks that can be played on a person's eyes which are pure illusions. Hold this paper a foot or more from your eyes and turn it gently round to the right or left, in small circles, keeping your eyes fixed on the three small rings, as shown in the illustration.

As you move the paper round like the hands of a watch you will find that the rings in these circles seem to chase each other in the same direction, and the longer and more intently you look at it the faster they go.

Circles can be made with spokes in them which to some persons seem to be going in the opposite direction to that in which the paper is turned, but the illusion is not so perfect unless

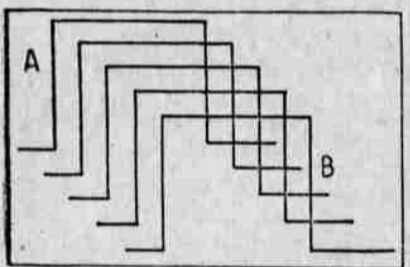


Chasing Rings.

the circles are much larger than there is space for in this column.

Another curious optical illusion that has puzzled a great many persons who have tried to account for it is also shown.

If we suppose these to represent wire hoops which of them is nearest you A or B? The answer is that it is the one you first make up your mind is nearest you. But now if you look steadily at it for a few moments your eyes will get tired of that idea and it will suddenly shift that hoop to the furthest away from you, in spite of your wishing to keep it as it was, and after you have looked at



Hoops Change Positions.

it in its new position for a space it will go back again.

If you do not decide which is the nearest to you at first, but just look at the middle hoop steadily, you will see them one way, perhaps with A in front and toward you, and then A will suddenly go back and B will be in front.

## NOVEL NUT-CRACKING CUSTOM

Nobody Hesitated to Take Advantage of Peculiar Privilege Allowed in Olden Days.

The modern minister likes to have things quiet when he talks. It discards him to hear a baby cry or a woman cough or an old man snore. If he is put out by such trifles as these it is interesting to conjecture what he would do if he were to take hold of a congregation where everybody brought nuts to crack during the sermon. Worshipers used to do this in England, and even in our own states during colonial days. This disturbance was not a weekly occurrence by any means; if it had been, the poor preacher would have undoubtedly left his congregation to administer spiritual consolation to suit themselves. But as it only happened once a year he was forced to endure it. This one day which was attended by such remarkable license came the Sunday before Michaelmas day and was called crack-nut Sunday. Nobody, no matter how pious he might be, hesitated to avail himself of the peculiar privilege granted him, and men, women and children came to church with their pockets stuffed with nuts, which they complacently cracked and munched during the sermon. It can be easily imagined that when forty or fifty people got to cracking nuts with all their might the noise is apt to be something terrific, and many times the minister was hard put to it to "hear himself think." The custom, from being regarded with high favor for many years, finally came to be looked upon as a nuisance, and in the beginning of the present century the habit was suppressed, although the act of suppression was attended with considerable difficulty, so firmly had the nut-cracking fever taken hold of the fancy of the people.

## HAD PHONOGRAPHS IN EGYPT

Reports Are That Babylonian Tablet Also Shows That the Wireless Telegraph Was Known.

"We think we are a great people," said the retired army officer, taking off his glasses, "and we feel that we are progressing at a tremendous pace, but here's a newspaper account saying that the French government has unearthed in Babylonia 45,000 tablets, giving a history in full of the reign of the ancient kings. Here we find for the first time that Babylon, and not Rome, was the real 'Mother of Laws.' In those days there was a system of courts and of appeals that even suggested a recall. Sir, this report also states that in the days of Nebuchadnezzar they had a free rural delivery of mail over every highway in the kingdom. And shades of Grover Cleveland!—It has also been proved beyond a doubt that the Egyptian government in 4,500 B. C., had a perfected system of civil service. There is a record that the first turbine engine was invented by the Egyptians, and that Archimedes devised this mechanical contrivance by which the fields could be watered when the Nile was low. This is the same principle that is used to drive the latest additions to the Cunarders."

What shocked the doughty old American most of all, says the National Magazine, was the information that four thousand years ago the phonograph was used in ancient Egypt, and was in reality only perfected by Edison in the nineteenth century. There is evidence also of the use of wireless telegraphy before the Christian era, while the Egyptian alphabet has proven to be a scientific key to organized human speech. It is a hard blow to our self-sufficiency to find that the banjo of the southern plantation with its fascinating "thrum" only echoes the musical instruments used by Egyptians in prehistoric times.

### Rats and the Plague.

There is a theory that the old brown rats aided the spread of plague in Europe, because the fleas which infest them are more likely to take up their abode on human beings than are the parasites of the Norway rat. This is hardly demonstrated beyond the fact that the cessation of plague epidemics in England and western Europe was about coincident with the Norway rat invasion. It seems to have been proved in California that the gray rats can spread the infection, but if the black rats spread it faster, we may yet be brought to concede some good in the gray Norway rat pest that has heretofore driven out its older brother.

### Kind Treatment Pays.

At a Kansas agricultural experiment station the results of treating animals with kindness were recently demonstrated to be of the most practical character. Three cows were selected, and at first treated with the utmost care and gentleness, with the result that they produced thirty-six pounds of milk containing 4.3 per cent. of butter fat. The same cows were then frightened by their attendants howling at them, letting dogs bark at them, etc., with the result that they produced only twenty-three pounds of milk, containing only 3.4 per cent. of butter fat.

### Oldest Newspaper.

The "Tehing Pao," which is the official gazette of Peking, and has just celebrated its thousandth anniversary, is the oldest newspaper in the world. Ever since its inception, a copy of each issue has been carefully preserved in the archives of the Peking palace. Accuracy has always been the keynote of his paper, and, in sever to maintain its high standard, several journalists on its staff in the past paid the penalty of mistakes with their lives. Dismissal, and, at the worst, imprisonment, is the punishment meted out at present.

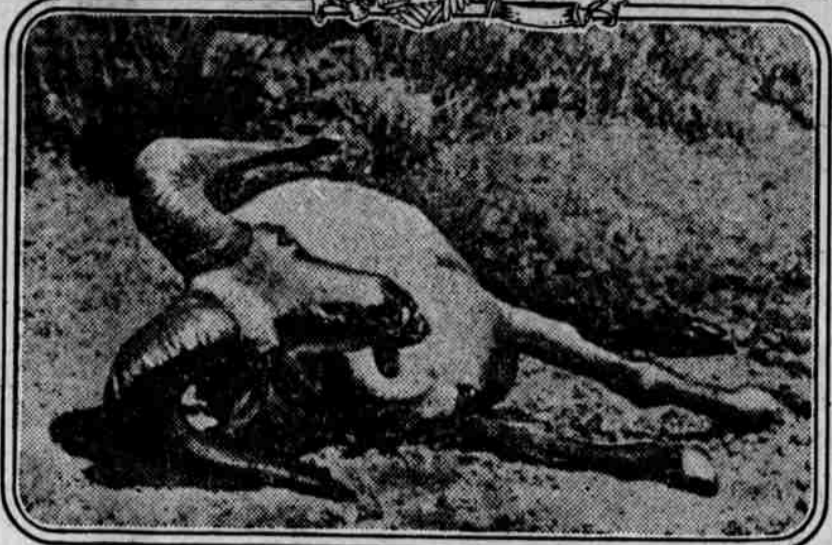
### New York Alimony Club.

The Alimony club in New York, a name adopted by a coterie of men who are undergoing imprisonment there for default in payment of allowances to wives from whom they have separated, held a banquet in jail on Christmas day. Twelve sat down to a good repast, two of them having come back for the occasion, after recovering their liberty only two days before. The popular song, "I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now," was sung during every toast, and "Our Unfortunate Successors" was received hilariously.

### The Universe an Accident.

The universe, together with its parts, is nothing but a number of accidents, ever changing and being renewed at every breath and linked together in a single substance and at each instant disappearing and being replaced by a similar set. In consequence of this rapid succession, the spectator is deceived into the belief that the universe is a permanent existence.—By Nur Addin 'Abd Airahman Jami.

# MOUNTAIN SHEEP OF SONORA DESERT



SHOT IN PINACATE MOUNTAINS

**N**O big-game-hunter will deny, I think, the difficulties that attend the shooting of mountain sheep. To the so-called sportsman who gauges his success by the number of heads secured, irrespective of their value, it cannot, of course, appeal; but to the hunter-naturalist, who can enjoy and appreciate the wild and imposing country in which his quarry lives, and finds his greatest pleasure in pitting his own skill and cunning against those of a worthy foe, this form of shooting yields a most exciting, if arduous, sport. But today the number of mountain sheep is fast diminishing, and it is exceedingly difficult in America to find and obtain a good, or even moderate, head without an extraordinary amount of traveling and hunting—even then success is not assured—while the short open season for sheep presents an added obstacle. Nor is such a trip by any means inexpensive, for American guides have a way of charging for their services which is altogether out of proportion of their value.

Mountain sheep, however, can be found in the very northwest of Mexico, around the head of the Gulf of California, in Lower California, and rarely in Chihuahua. Further south they cannot go, for the torrid heat and waterless desert of the Tierra Caliente (hot country) prevent their further progress. Therefore this region forms the vanishing point of the genus Ovis in America, and the study of these sheep is all the more interesting on that account, writes I. N. Dracopoli in Country Life.

Of the mountain sheep found in Mexico there are four species or subspecies: The Ovis mexicanus, whose type locality is the Lake Santa Maria district in Chihuahua; the Ovis canadensis gillardi of the Pinatec mountains in Sonora; and the Ovis nelsoni and Ovis cervina cremonabates of Lower California. The first-named of these is now almost extinct, for they used to inhabit a country which was plentifully supplied with water and easily accessible, and they were soon almost exterminated by so-called "sportsmen." They are distinguished by the large size of their ears and molar teeth, while their forehead is noticeably less concave than that of the typical Ovis canadensis. These sheep have been rightly, I think, described as a new species; but the other three are only sub-species or local varieties of the true Ovis canadensis typicus. It would be tedious, therefore, to go fully into the minute peculiarities that differentiate them from the well known Rocky Mountain sheep, as they are of interest only to the zoologist, and not to the big-game-hunter. There is one point, however, that makes the Ovis canadensis gillardi a particularly fine trophy, and that is the remarkable bulk of the horns, which are much bigger and more massive in comparison with the bodily size of the animal than those of the sheep in Wyoming and the north.

### Not Wild or Shy.

At present in the Pinatec mountains and in the Sierra del Pozo in Sonora there is a large number of them, and they are not very wild or shy, as they have not been much molested by the Indians and not at all by the white man, for the country is unknown, and has a bad name owing to its extreme aridity.

In the daytime and during hot weather the sheep are always found high up in the mountains. They come down to feed during the night, but invariably return to the rocky ledges and precipitous cliffs, which are their favorite haunts, soon after dawn. Here they bed down in the niches of the lava or under some overhanging boulder for the rest of the day; and so well does their coloring harmonize with their surroundings that not even the trained eyesight of the Indian can detect them. The hunter must, therefore, be early in the field. He should, if possible, camp high up the mountains in the sheep country, for this

will give him the best chance of success.

When these animals are moving about they are not difficult to see, for their white rump patch is most conspicuous and can be detected at a great distance. The secret of success is not to be in a hurry. Like nearly all other animals, they have always a sentinel on the look-out when they are feeding, generally a ewe, and the hunter's chief aim should be to spot this animal and avoid being seen by it. He should then take a careful note of the country, and by proceeding slowly and cautiously, and by keeping in the shadows if possible, he should be able to approach them easily enough and select the best head. There is another point that should be remembered, and that is that the sheep when frightened nearly always try to escape down the mountain-side, so that they should be approached, whenever the wind allows of it, from below.

Owing to the scarcity of all other food, the ruminants of this country have to depend almost entirely on the acaci and the young shoots and green bark of the mesquite and paloverde trees for sustenance. They are also very partial to the ocotillo (Fouquieria splendens), and when the latter begin to flower late in April, the sheep come down from the mountains to the edge of the plains and feed almost entirely on them. This diet seems to agree with them excellently, for they are always in the best of condition at this time of year. I do not know of any animals, either in Africa or America, whose meat is so delicious to eat, and it is far finer than that of the pronghorn antelope, which is much prized by the Mexicans.

The dryness of the climate in the Sonora desert is largely responsible for the way some of the horns are split at the ends, which often spoils an otherwise perfect head and reduces its length by two to four inches. It has the same effect on one's fingernails, which become very brittle and split or break at the slightest provocation. The horns of the old rams are especially dry, and are often much worn and scarred on their upper surface, as can be seen in the photograph of the biggest ram we shot; but this is due to the blows they receive when fighting among themselves head to head.

Mountain sheep are not the only trophy that can be secured in this interesting country, for its fauna is almost as remarkable as its flora, and many species are confined to this locality and are not found elsewhere. Among game animals are the puma (Felis concolor) and a little-known species of jaguar—the "tigre" of the Mexicans—the bay lynx (L. ruffus), a local variety of the Texas collared peccary (D. angulatus sonoriensis), the black and the white tailed deer and the pronghorn antelope.

One of the principal charms of hunting in this country is the variety of scenery met with. For the deer are found in abundance in the Santa Catalina mountains, among the pines and silver birches of the beautiful Canada del Oro. In the foot-hills lynx puma and the black-tailed deer can generally be found, but here the scenery is quite different and the vegetation becomes more characteristic. Hunting is difficult, as there is but little cover and days pass often without a chance for a shot.

It would be impossible in a short article to describe in detail the various animals that live in the Sonora desert, or to mention the best hunting-grounds. It is undoubtedly the finest game country in the southwest today, as it has been untouched, and therefore unspoiled, by the ordinary traveler. But although big game is plentiful, good trophies are not secured without hard work and much patience. The heat is intense and water is very scarce—in parts absolutely non-existent, so that no one should contemplate a hunting trip to the Sonora desert unless he is prepared to face discomfort and probably actual hardship.

## Might Be the Fact.

Burglars who broke into a Paris flat recently removed all the fashionable pinnacled dresses belonging to the mistress of the house and left a number of old skirts. "The police," says a Paris correspondent, "suspect a fashion expert." We, on the other hand, are inclined to wonder if the burglary was not committed by the lady's husband, who may easily have been a simple-hearted fellow who wished to see his wife becomingly dressed for a week or two.—By-stander.

Red Cross Ball Blue, all blue, best bluing value in the whole world, makes the laundress smile.

## Keeping Water Cold.

If you are in the habit of taking a pitcher of iced water to your room on retiring, try this: Procure a square pasteboard box (with lid), sufficiently large to hold your pitcher, and give it two or three coats of varnish on the outside, allowing each coat to dry thoroughly. Place your pitcher of water in this box on retiring, putting the lid on tightly, and you are sure of having cold drinking water any hour of the night.

## Long Courtships.

Young ladies in Russia are not at all averse to long engagements, and use all sorts of artifices to stave off the wedding day as long as possible; but in no country in the world are courtships so abnormally long as in Bohemia, where engagements commonly last from 15 to 20 years. In fact, there recently died there, at the age of ninety-nine, an old man who had been courting for 75 years, and who was married on his death-bed.

## Before or After.

"I thought that in the 15 years of my practice of medicine," said a physician, "I had answered almost every possible foolish question, but a new one was sprung on me recently. A young man came in with an inflamed eye, for which I prescribed liniment—to be dropped into the eye three times a day. He left the surgery, but returned in a few minutes, poked his head in the doorway, and asked: 'Shall I drop this in the eye before meals, or after?'"

## Oiling Shoes.

The best way to keep black leather shoes from looking worn, and also from breaking, is to dip a small flannel rag in olive oil and rub it into the leather; if it needs further rubbing or wiping, take a fresh, dry flannel rag and go over it. This method is good for the woman in mourning, as it keeps her footwear black without polishing it, and provides a dulled finish.

## Making Opportunity.

When the young physician's motor-car reached the scene of the accident there was nothing to do; all the victims had been so slightly hurt that they were able to walk home. The young doctor was keenly disappointed, but his chauffeur spoke up cheerfully: "Never mind, doctor. I'll run down some business on the way home."

## Some Proof.

"So he took you out auto riding the other evening?" "Yes, what of it?" "Do you think he is in love with you?" "I think so. I know that every time I spoke to him the auto tried to climb a tree or jump a fence."—Houston Post.

## Perhaps.

A Boston minister has jumped into the spotlight by making the statement that American women wear too many clothes at summer resorts. This is the last objection we expected a minister to make. Perhaps the women whom he observed are inclined to freckle.

## The Difference.

When a man falls on a bit of orange peel, the first thing he does is to look back to see what it was; but the first thing a woman does is to look around to see if anyone has seen her. The Tatler.

## What Some Said.

Sterne once said that the most accomplished way of using books is to serve them as some do lords; learn their titles and then brag of their acquaintance.

## WRIGHT'S INDIAN VEGETABLE PILLS



REGULATE STIMULATE PURIFY THE BOWELS THE LIVER THE BLOOD AT ALL DRUGGISTS

## PISO'S REMEDY FOR COUGHS AND COLDS