

HEALTHY PLANTS

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THE GILLES OF BINCHE.

Their Carnival the Quaintest of Belgian Mediaeval Customs. The persistent manner in which Belgians cling to their mediaeval festivals and traditions is a characteristic national trait well known to those familiar with the Flemish and Walloon provinces.

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Is ever happy to find a comfortable stopping place. Where to put up is the prevalent question after a long journey. You can solve the problem in Astoria by going to the

PARKER HOUSE

Whose genial host, Mr. T. J. Broemser, is an experienced hotel man and who on April 1 took charge of this popular hotelery and has inaugurated a new feature to the house by opening the dining room in connection with the hotel and is now able to give his patrons board and lodgings, the best in Astoria, for \$1 and \$1.25 per day. Satisfaction guaranteed.

T. J. BROEMSER.

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CONDITIONS, LIST OF PRIZES, THE DOTS, DIRECTION. 1st Prize, Piano with Mandolin and Guitar attachments, value \$1,000.00. 2nd Prize, Piano, 1,000.00. 3rd Prize, Diamond, 250.00. 4th Prize, Diamond, 125.00. 5th Prize, Solid gold Watch, 50.00.

These Gilles, or dancing men, who form the glory of the Binche carnival, are characterized by their headdresses and humps. The headdress is most elaborate and striking. In shape it resembles the old time top hat of our great-grandfathers. The hat is surmounted with magnificent ostrich feathers from three to four feet in length, which give to the wearers the appearance of giants.

The entire Gilles outfit costs from \$40 to \$50, a large sum for the peasant youths, generally selected by the carnival committee to fill the part of actors in the Mardi Gras festivities. The honor of being a Gilles is so great, however, among the gay Lotharios of Binche and carries such prestige with the local damsels that the young men chosen by the committee are only too pleased to make the financial sacrifice demanded of them.

In the afternoon of Mardi Gras the Gilles, in full uniform, 200 strong, preceded by the local brass bands and musical clubs, appear in procession and march toward the Grande place. The sight thus offered is unique in the annals of carnival rejoicings. The Gilles proceed by dancing to the tune of the band just mentioned. At every few steps they stop, bend and unbend, to heighten the effect of the ringing from the bells worn at their belts. Their streamers float to and fro and envelop them in a rainbow of ribbon. At the same time the simultaneous ringing of bells and thumping of wooden sabots on the cobblestones sound like the echo of a cavalry charge.

The Gilles have each a straw basket hanging to one side from the belt and filled with oranges. With these they bombard the spectators as they dance along. As soon as emptied the baskets are filled again by men from behind, appointed for this duty. A general battle of oranges then takes place between the Gilles and the carnival merry-makers. Finally the procession reaches the town hall, in front of which, seated on a platform, is the mayor, surrounded by the municipal officials. The Gilles then terminate the day's festivities by a general war dance, giving a prolonged exhibition of their capabilities. The public likewise joins in the fun, and soon some 5,000 persons, men, women and children, may be seen gaily waiting around the Grande place. The sight of an entire population dressed in carnival costumes and masked dancing in the open air to the music of the Gilles brass band is one not easily forgotten. The dancing continues until the late evening, when the sport is brought to an end by the mayor, who formally awards a gold medal to the Gilles who has proved himself the most expert dancer.

The Journey of the Stork. Ask a German where the storks go when they leave the fatherland, and he will reply, "South!" That is all he knows about it. But some years ago an American clergyman temporarily residing at Berlin had an opportunity of deciding where these birds spend the colder part of the year.

He captured one of them into his garret, caught it and placed a silver ring about its leg, on which was engraved "Berlin, 1883." Having observed the habits of the bird, he took it for granted that the stork would reappear in its usual quarters upon its return in the spring, which indeed proved to be the case. The surprise of the clergyman's household was great, however, when its members noticed that "their stork" now wore two silver rings upon his leg.

The bird was recaptured and, behold the old ring was back again and accompanying it another, which read, "India sends greetings to Berlin."—Pittgram. Temperament and Food. For bilious persons a chart of life published by Professor Boyd Laynard gives emphatic warning of dangerous rocks in the shape of sausages, pork, turtle and other commodities. Eels must not be eaten by brain workers, chilly persons should cultivate a taste for sardines, while irritable people are warned away from ginger, and the melancholy man must not touch bacon. Whitebait, it is suggested, is inadvisable for persons who are of an amorous nature, asparagus is forbidden to those who suffer from excitement, and languid persons are told to be careful when they indulge in peas, potatoes, arrowroot and macaroni. Duck for some mysterious reason is described as unsuitable for the bashful, the irate, the pale, the drowsy and the inebriate.—St. James' Gazette.

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