

TALL SNAKE STORIES.

Some Curious Revelations by a Reptilian Expert.

Crawlers That Possess But Little Brain Power and Are Very Tenacious of Life—Beneficial to Farmers.

"A snake has no means for separating flesh from bones and feathers," said an expert to a reporter for the Washington Star. "It swallows its prey alive. The latter usually dies of suffocation. In the process of deglutition the breathing of the serpent is interfered with, so that after performing it the reptile yawns widely in order to take in air. Sometimes at this moment the victim, though already on its way to the stomach of its devourer, has been known to turn about and crawl out again in safety, effecting its escape.

"When two snakes are in a cage together, and both get hold of the same frog or rat, they will advance upon it until their heads meet, when one of them will proceed to swallow the other. Keepers of serpents at zoological gardens have constantly to be on the lookout for such accidents. I have known one valuable reptile to be rescued after several feet of him had been consumed. When discovered in this predicament only a foot of his tail stuck out of the mouth of a comrade.

"Cannibalism is very common in snakes. A box of imported serpents labeled 'ten cobras' or 'fourteen vipers' will often be found short in the number on this account. It is a curious fact that these reptiles, as a rule, seize animals bigger than themselves. The structure of their ribs permits great expansion of the body, and a snake of superior size is disposed of by doubling up in the stomach.

"It is often asked what these crawling creatures are good for. For one thing, they are able to penetrate where no larger carnivorous animal could venture, into dense and noisome morasses, bogs, jungles and swamps, amid the tangled vegetation of the tropics, where they feed on swarms of smaller reptiles. The hedgehog, weasel, rat, peccary, badger, hog, goat and many kinds of birds keep snakes within due limits as to numbers, while the latter devour innumerable lesser vermin. Thus the balance of nature is maintained.

"Snakes have small brains, slight intelligence and little sensibility to pain. They can live for a long time deprived of their vital organs, while the heart, if taken from the body, will continue to beat for a considerable time. If the head be severed it will try to bite, while the body will continue to move, coil and even spring.

"Many serpents which do not live in trees will climb them in search of birds' eggs. They do much damage in poultry yards. When once the eggs are missed from a hen's nest and a snake's track is discovered the farmer knows that the thief will repeat the offense, so a watch is set and no mercy is shown to the culprit when caught.

"On the other hand, snakes are of important use to agriculture by consuming the mice that devour the crops. Snake catchers who pack serpents for transportation across the ocean, commonly supply them with food for the journey in the shape of eggs.

"There is a well-authenticated story of a cobra that got through a chink in a hen-house and ate so many eggs from under a sitting fowl that it could not get out again through the same crack. Next morning it was killed and cut open, when, as the eggs were found to be unbroken and still warm, the experiment was tried of replacing them under the mother, who, in due time, hatched out the brood none the worse for this remarkable accident.

"Black snakes, though not venomous, are killed by farmers wherever found, because of the havoc they make in poultry yards. This kind of serpent climbs trees with ease and has been described as the 'nimblest creature living.' There is one very extraordinary serpent called the 'anodon,' whose business, according to Prof. Owen, is to restrain the undue increase of small birds by devouring their eggs. Far back in its throat it has certain projections which serve as teeth, though, in reality, they are points of the spine projecting into the gullet.

Ten days loss of time on account of sickness and a doctor bill to pay, is anything but pleasant for a man of a family to contemplate, whether he is a laborer, mechanic, merchant or publisher. Jas. O. Jones, publisher of the Leader, Mexia, Texas, was sick in bed for ten days with the grip during its prevalence a year or two ago. Later in the season he had a second attack. He says: "In the latter case I used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy with considerable success, I think, only being in bed a little over two days. The second attack I am satisfied would have been equally as bad as the first but for the use of the remedy." It should be borne in mind that the grip is much the same as a very severe cold and requires precisely the same treatment. When you wish to cure a cold quickly and effectually give this remedy a trial. 25 and 50 cent bottles for sale by Blakeley & Houghton, druggists.

WORKMEN boring an artesian well in Louisiana struck a maple log in a sound state of preservation five hundred and forty feet below the surface. Guaranteed Cure. We authorize our advertised druggist to sell Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, upon this condition. If you are afflicted with a Cough, Cold or any Lung, Throat or Chest trouble, and will use this remedy as directed, giving it a fair trial, and experience no benefit, you may return the bottle and have your money refunded. We would not make this offer did we not know that Dr. King's New Discovery could be relied on. It never disappoints. Trial bottles free at Snipes & Kinerly's.

DWARFING TREES IN JAPAN.

In the Case of Pines the Process Requires Two Years for Completion.

The art of dwarfing plants is so little known in other lands that a short description of its process is given by Garden and Forest. The pines may truly be considered the most important of all trees in Japan, and great care is taken in their cultivation and preservation. They are generally grown from seed, and great care is taken to select the choicest quality of seed. In the spring of the second year, when the seedlings are about eight inches in height, they are staked with bamboo canes and tied with rice straw, the plants being bent in different desirable shapes. In the next fall they are transplanted to richer soil and are well fertilized. In the following spring the plants are restaked and twisted and tied in fanciful forms. This mode of treatment is given until the seventh year, when the trees will have assumed fairly large proportions, the branches being trained in graceful forms and the foliage like small crowds of dense green. The plants are now taken up and placed in pots one and a half feet in diameter, and are kept well watered every succeeding year; great care must be taken to keep new shoots pinched back. After another three years of this treatment the trees are virtually dwarfed, there being no growth thereafter. The dwarfing of bamboo is another important branch of the Japanese nursery business. A few weeks after the shoots begin to grow, and when the trunks measure about three inches in circumference and five feet in height the bark is removed, piece by piece, from the joint. After five weeks, when the plants get somewhat stout, the stem is bent and tied in. After three months, when the side shoots grow strong enough, they are all cut off five or six inches from the main trunk, they are then dug up and potted in sand. Care should be taken not to use any fertilizer, but plenty of water should be given. Cut off the large shoots every year in May or June, and after three years the twigs and leaves will present admirable yellow and green tints.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contain Mercury.

As mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten-fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally, and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free. Sold by druggists, price 75c. per bottle.

DRINKS—"Was Smith's purpose of whipping the editor carried out?" Danks—"No; but Smith was."—Buffalo Courier.

The huntsman who brings home the antlers proves that he has been able to get a head of the game.—Elmira Gazette.

COOK'S COTTON ROOT COMPOUND. A recent discovery by an old physician. Successfully used monthly by thousands of Ladies. Is the only perfectly safe and reliable medicine discovered. Beware of unprincipled druggists who offer inferior medicines in place of this. Ask for Cook's Cotton Root Compound, take no substitutes, or inclose \$1 and 6 cents in postage in letter and we will send, sealed, by return mail. Full sealed particulars in plain envelope, to Ladies only, 2 stamps. Address Post Office, Detroit, Mich. Sold in The Dalles by Snipes & Kinerly.

Divorces in France. About thirty thousand couples have been divorced in France during the last five years, and a law was recently read in the chamber of deputies designed to make a severance of the matrimonial bonds much easier still.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve. The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, letter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Snipes & Kinerly.

Top Roman aes, or libra, was a pound weight of copper or brass stamped by a state. It was oblong, like a brick, and was not struck but cast.

Mrs. Emily Thorne, who resides at Toledo, Washington, says she has never been able to procure any medicine for rheumatism that relieves the pain so quickly and effectually as Chamberlain's Pain Balm and that she has also used it for lame back with great success. For sale by Blakeley & Houghton, druggists.

SKIRTS are as varied as those for grown-up women. They are in circle shape, gored in front and on the sides, and straight. The straight skirts, however, predominate, and two breadths of double-fold goods or three of twenty-inch are used. The skirts may be lined or unlined. Most straight skirts are simply hemmed.

O. W. O. Hardman, Sheriff of Tyro Co., W. Va., appreciates a good thing and does not hesitate to say so. He was almost prostrated with a cold when he procured a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. He says: "It gave me prompt relief. I find it to be an invaluable remedy for coughs and colds." For sale by Blakeley & Houghton, druggists.

Poison the squirrels. Sure Shot at Snipes & Kinerly's.

Mexico's Early Population.

Everywhere about the valleys of New Mexico, invariably upon eminences, and usually upon high flat-topped mesas or table hills, are the ruins of houses of the ancient semi-civilized Indian population that lived here and tilled the soil before the coming of the Spaniards, four centuries ago. The numbers of this old population can be only vaguely inferred by the numerous, obsolescent foundations of their houses, still well defined above the surface of the ground, and by the debris of the fallen walls which constitute hillocks, grass-grown and intermixed with occasional old stone utensils and countless fragments of pottery. This pottery, when turned up by the spade, is found to be handsome and varied in color and as fresh of tint, as it could have been when the village was destroyed or abandoned and every tradition of its existence lost in prehistoric past.

An Adirondack Phenomenon.

One of the most striking phenomena of the Adirondack region is the carrying power of the human voice in still weather upon the lakes great and small. Persons ashore easily hear the ordinary conversation of others who are so far out upon the lake as to be undistinguishable, and as a great many Adirondack visitors habitually violate the law touching the slaughter of deer, all such offenders are extremely careful not even to whisper a word that might betray their guilt when rowing upon the lakes.

The experience of Geo. A. Apgar, of German Valley, N. J., is well worth remembering. He was troubled with chronic diarrhoea and doctored for five months and was treated by four different doctors without benefit. He then began using Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, of which one bottle effected a complete cure. It is for sale by Blakeley & Houghton, druggists.

NICKNAMES OF CITIES.

PROVIDENCE is known as Roger Williams City. VICKSBURG was during the war named the Key City.

A Leader.

Since its first introduction, electric bitters has gained rapidly in popular favor, until now it is clearly in the lead among pure medicinal tonics and alternatives—containing nothing which permits its use as a beverage or intoxicant, it is recognized as the best and purest medicine for all ailments of stomach, liver or kidneys. It will cure sick headache, indigestion, constipation and drive malaria from the system. Satisfaction guaranteed with each bottle or the money will be refunded. Price only 50c. per bottle. Sold by Snipes & Kinerly.

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Of Des Moines, Iowa, writes under date of

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Yours, Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Ford.

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