

**BIG ALLIGATORS.**

Some Odd Tales Told by an Old Florida Hotel Register.

At the end of a chapter on alligators, in his book "Hunting and Fishing in Florida," Mr. Charles B. Cory, curator of the department of ornithology in the Field Columbian museum, Chicago, gives an entry which he once saw in the register of the Brock house.

In the old days, when transportation was more difficult than it is at present, the Brock house was about the end of civilization, and was a 24 hours' trip by boat from Jacksonville. It was at that time a great resort for sportsmen, who were attracted there by the fishing and shooting to be had in the vicinity.

The old register, which extended back a great many years, contained some queer records, many of them of doubtful veracity. Among others, some one had written:

"March 19, 1872, killed a large alligator, the largest seen here this year; the stomach contained a boot, a piece of pine wood, a fisherman's float, and some small fish."

Immediately beneath this record was another, evidently added by some wag: "March 24, killed a much bigger alligator than the one mentioned above. The stomach contained a gold watch, \$10,000 in government bonds, and a cord of wood."

On the next page, written in a neat, unobtrusive style, was inscribed the following: "Shot the biggest alligator ever known in Florida; the stomach contained the remains of a steam launch, a lot of old railway iron, and a quantity of melted ice, proving that it existed during the glacial epoch."

**TROCHA COST MANY LIVES.**

Over 2,000 Soldiers Died of Fever Contracted There.

A decided change has been made in the plan of military operations in Pinar del Rio province.

The western trocha has not been abandoned yet, but the force along that military line has been greatly reduced already. Three brigades of infantry have gone into the mountainous country on the north coast, the only part where the insurgents find anything like security.

The trocha, says a Havana dispatch, was a costly mistake in many respects; in others it served its purpose. The work was too expensively built. Although intended for a temporary purpose, the blockhouses in many instances were of brick and finished as if for permanent use. Even the mortar at the joints was nicely troweled. The same disposition to erect massive and permanent works that distinguished the Spaniards in the days of the colonization of America exists to-day. The trocha caused Mexico a great deal of annoyance. It staid the passage of large bodies of men east and west. Only small groups succeeded in crossing.

The maintenance of the trocha has cost dearly in human life. The country through which it runs is malarious naturally, and the throwing up of earthworks left pits which filled with stagnant water in the rainy season. More than 2,000 soldiers have died from disease contracted there. Even now many are sick, mostly with chills and fever. Yellow fever and dysentery have been epidemic.

**BARBER SHOP ON WHEELS.**

This Man Uses a Tricycle to Get Custom from Farmers.

No odder use has been found for the bicycle than that to which it has been put by a barber, August Leibman, of Gravesend, Long Island, says the New York Press. Before he learned to ride a wheel he made a comfortable living by driving around the scattered villages of Long Island shaving the farmers who could not spare time to travel to the neighboring towns to be shaved. It occurred to Leibman that a more desirable way of visiting his patrons than by the old horse and buggy could be found by constructing a tricycle outfit. The plan has worked well. The barber's chair, which is getting to be a familiar sight on Long Island, runs on three wheels and in the center of the machine is the saddle on which Leibman perches when he pedals abroad on shaving and hair cutting tours.

The advantage of the new outfit is that it costs next to nothing when compared with the expense of keeping a horse. Before he adopted the tricycle system of travel Leibman was forced to confine his shaving and hair cutting efforts to farmsteads far removed from the red and white pole of the village barber. Now he boldly rides into the territory of his rivals, for the novelty of being shaved in a tricycle barber's chair has attracted custom from the regular shops.

**Where the Money Went.**

The vicar of a rural parish who had waxed eloquent on the subject of foreign missions one Sunday was surprised on entering the village shop during the week to be greeted with marked coldness by the worthy dame who kept it. On seeking to know the cause, the good woman produced a coin from a drawer, and, throwing it down before the vicar, exclaimed: "I marked that holy crown and put it in the plate last Sunday, and here it is back again in my shop. I knowed well them niggers never got the money."

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**A STORY OF LI HUNG CHANG.**

How He Interested Himself in Two Chinese Women.

Something over a year ago a Chinese Christian girl named Marguerite Wang came to America with the intention of obtaining an education. She remained here a year, and was just about to enter a woman's college when she received word that her father had betrothed her to a man whom she had never seen. Under the consular regulations she was forced to return to her home, foregoing her education, to marry this man. Miss Hartford, one of the principal workers in the Foo-Chow mission, who was here on a visit, accompanied her on her return.

On the same ship with them was Li Hun Chang and his suite. The viceroxy noticed the Chinese girl, and sent his secretary, Lord Li, to inquire about her. A day or two later he sent word he would like to talk with Marguerite and Miss Hartford. They went to see him and told him the story of the girl's attempt to obtain an education. The viceroxy was much pleased with his countrywoman and seemed to take a great interest in her. He told her and Miss Hartford about the woman's congress, which is to be held in London in 1898, and said that he wanted the women of China to be represented at the congress.

After a little talk he told Marguerite that he would appoint her to represent China and its women at the congress. He then asked Miss Hartford if she did not know of some other woman in China that was qualified to be a delegate to the congress. Miss Hartford at once recommended to him Dr. Hu King Eng, the first Chinese woman to study medicine. Some years ago she left China to come to America, and after a course in the woman's medical school at Philadelphia she received her degree. She then returned to China and became one of the most valuable members of the Foo Chow mission, where she now is. Li Hung Chang was much interested in the story and after a few questions said that she should be appointed as the second woman to attend the congress. So China will be represented at the woman's congress and by two Christian women. After the viceroxy's arrival in China he made the appointment in a formal manner.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

**A COWBOY'S LETTER.**

It Was to His Father, Who Was a Duke in Scotland.

This world has become but a very small place, yet it is not every day that the fact is so forcefully demonstrated as it was to a certain doctor of whom a western paper tells. This doctor had under his care in the hospital a cowboy from one of the ranges of northern Montana, who, when he became convalescent, one day walked into the doctor's house to thank him for his services and say good-by. As he was about to leave the office, the cowboy remarked: "Doctor, I understand that you are soon to set off on a trip to the other side of the water, and that before you return you intend to visit Scotland. If such is the case, I should like to give you a letter to some friends of mine."

The doctor replied that he did intend to visit Scotland, and that he should be pleased to take charge of the letter.

Thereupon the cowboy sat down, wrote a brief letter, sealed it up, and addressed the envelope to—let us say—the "duke of Craige" at a castle in Scotland. When he handed it to the doctor, that gentleman looked at the address rather dubiously, and then asked, in a voice that was possibly a little cold: "Is this gentleman an acquaintance of yours?"

"Well, yes," replied the ranch-ride. "I think it quite probable he will remember me. He is my father, and I shall be glad to have you call on him and tell him I'm getting along all right."

The doctor took the letter, and when he left for the old world had every intention of cultivating the acquaintance of the Scottish nobleman, as he had already cultivated the acquaintance of his son.—Youth's Companion.

**Antiseptic Qualities in Coins.**

It is a well-known fact that paper money is liable to transfer bacteria from one person to another, and thus to spread contagious diseases. It is also supposed that coins, which are more in circulation than notes, might similarly act as agents for spreading disease, and investigations in that direction were made at the Vienna university when Austria changed its currency to the gold basis. A report about his observations was recently published by Dr. Vincent in the Vienna Medical Gazette, in which he states that metals act, so to speak, as antiseptics in regard to bacteria, or microbes, the fact being that these microscopic organisms have but a very short lease of life while on metals. The destroying influence of metals increase with their temperature, and also with the close touch of the micro-organisms with the metal. At a temperature of 95 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit, which is common in the pockets where money is carried, the destruction of microbes occurs within three hours. The various metals used for coins are somewhat different in this respect, silver being the most antiseptic and gold the least. Copper and bronze hold about the middle between the two more precious metals.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

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**LOCKJAW IN SOIL.**

Tetanus Bacilli Thrive in Long Island—Nine Fatalities a Year.

The death of a child in Brooklyn from lockjaw, said to have been caused by bacilli of the disease which existed in the soil of that region, calls attention again to a peculiar danger of some portions of Long Island, which has been mentioned at intervals of several years. In this instance the child, says the Hartford Times, a girl two years old, had been vaccinated. There was no reason to suspect the purity of the vaccine matter. It was used three weeks ago, and the child was getting on well until in playing in the dirt she scratched the vaccinated arm while her fingers were smeared with clay.

As to the existence of tetanus bacilli in the soil, the evidence seems to be ample. Health Commissioner Emery says the soil is full of these bacilli and that they caused several deaths which followed vaccination a year ago. Dr. Mayne, who attended the little girl, says: "The germs of tetanus are in the air as well as in the soil, but to breathe them is not necessarily fatal. In the vicinity of the south shore of Long Island horses, as well as human beings, have fallen victims to the bacilli. In the case of the little girl her finger nails contained the germ, which when brought into contact with the superficial abrasion at once inoculated her system with the poison." Dr. West, of the Brooklyn department of health, says the existence of the germ of tetanus has been noted for several years, more particularly in the east and southern tiers of Long Island. He adds: "Suffolk county, I believe, has the reputation of being the most affected spot. In the past three years, in Brooklyn, there has been an average of nine fatalities from the work of tetanus bacillus annually. The germ, when exposed to the air, soon succumbs. When it attacks a wound it burrows down deep, for the purpose of keeping away from the air."

**NOTICE-SALE OF CITY LOTS.**

Notice is hereby given that by authority of ordinance No. —, which passed the Common Council of Dalles City February 6, 1897, entitled "An ordinance entitling an ordinance to provide for the sale of certain lots belonging to Dalles City," I will, on Saturday, the 13th day of March, 1897, sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, all the following lots and parts of lots in Gates Addition to Dalles City, Wasco County, Or., to-wit: The north 50 feet off from lots 5 and 6 jointly in block 18.  
North 30 feet off from lots 1 and 2 jointly in block 18.  
North 50 feet off from lots 3 and 4 jointly in block 18, and lot 1 in block 19.  
The reasonable value of said lots, for less than which they will not be sold, has been fixed and determined by the Common Council of Dalles City as follows to-wit:  
The north 50 feet off from lots 5 and 6 jointly in block 18, \$200.  
North 30 feet off from lots 1 and 2 jointly in block 10, \$60.  
North 50 feet off from lots 3 and 4 jointly in block 18, \$100.  
Lot 1 in block 10, \$200.  
Each one of these lots will be sold upon the lot respectively and none of them shall be sold for a less sum than the value thereof as above stated.  
One-fourth of the price bid on any of said lots shall be paid in cash at the time of sale, and the remainder in equal payments on or before one, two and three years from the date of said sale respectively, with interest on such deferred payments at the rate of 10 per cent per annum, payable annually; provided that payment may be made in full at any time at the option of the purchaser.  
The said sale will begin on the 13th day of March at the hour of 2 o'clock p. m. of said day, and will continue from time to time until all of said lots shall be sold.  
Dated this 9th day of February, 1897.  
GILBERT W. FIELDS,  
Recorder of Dalles City.

Subscribe for THE CHRONICLE.

The subject of pure food has long been a pet theme of legislators, and I admit that the discussions on the subject have done a great deal of good. I believe, however, that pure and wholesome utensils in which to cook the food are of more importance than the food itself. Only those who are familiar with the affairs of large kitchens are aware of the eternal vigilance which prevents the formation of chemical poisons in culinary utensils. Is there the same watchfulness in the kitchens of cheap eating houses? I trust the day is not far distant when rigorous laws will be passed compelling boards of health to inspect the cooking utensils of every establishment in which food is served to the public. My first inspection of the kitchen of the restaurants at the national capital made me shudder. One of the utensils which was in daily use was so covered with verdigris that the original color of the metal could not be seen. The utensil was a steam-heated cyster stew pan. The hands even of the colored attendant were stained green from contact with the pan. I questioned the servant, and she told me that I was the first person to complain to her about the condition of the pan. She went on to say that she "could not wash the 'green stuff' off her hands."—Twenty-ninth Century Cooking.

**Stuffed Cucumbers.**

Cut the cucumber into halves and remove the seeds. Boil four table-spoonsful of rice for 30 minutes; drain, and add to it an equal quantity of chopped meat. Peel two tomatoes, cut into halves and press out the seeds; cut them into small pieces, mix with the other ingredients; add a half teaspoonful of salt and a dash of pepper. Place this mixture into the cavity from which the seeds were taken; put the halves together, bind the cucumbers into shape with a piece of twine and stand in a baking pan; add half a cup of water; bake slowly for one hour, basting four or five times. These may also be baked by stuffing the mixture into the space from which the seeds were taken, and baking in the halves.—Boston Globe.

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