

#### THE MIGRATION OF FISH.

The Scottish Fisheries Board has been trying some interesting experiments which go to show that fish have a habitat as distinct and almost as confined as that of land animals. Last year something like 3000 fish of various species were caught, and after being marked returned to the sea. A considerable number of these have been captured after periods ranging from two months to one year. As a rule it was found that they were caught very near the same places where first taken, though in a few instances the marked fish had traveled considerable distances. The inference plainly follows that if the fish are destroyed in any particular locality it will be a long time, if ever, before that place is restocked. This is something for fishermen to consider.

#### GIGANTIC IRRIGATION SCHEME.

The San Joaquin ranch is to be irrigated and 20,000 acres now producing barley will be made susceptible of cultivation. The scheme is a prodigious one and means the expenditure of \$500,000 in the work. Men and teams are at work excavating a ditch, which will be thirteen miles and graded around the base of the San Joaquin hills. The Santiago creek, which flows a large supply of water the year round, will be dammed up in what is known as the narrows of the Santiago canon, and from there the water will be led by ditches to all parts of the San Joaquin ranch. The dam will be sixty feet thick at the base, 120 feet high and 365 feet wide, and will be built of masonry, and in the most substantial manner possible. This dam will back up the water of Santiago creek a distance of over a mile and nearly three miles wide, making one of the largest artificial lakes in the state. The work is being vigorously pushed along, and its completion will be hailed with delight by all surrounding people. It means the development of a large area of land now sparsely settled and but poorly cultivated.

#### PECULIARITIES OF PARA.

Beds, as we understand them, are unknown in Para, writes Fannie B. Ward in a letter from Brazil, but hammocks are hung every-where, in parlors and halls and dining rooms, and along the whole length of the verandah, to catch every breeze that is blowing, so that any number of unexpected guests can be "slung up" in a single house without inconvenience. Except in the most expensive residences the front rooms only are ceiled, and latticed windows are much more common than glass. Another thing that strikes the stranger, is the peculiar appearance of the people as compared with those he has seen in other parts of the country. The regularly descended Portuguese and Africans of course do not differ greatly from their brethren and sisters in other parts; but they are few here, while the Indian race predominates. In Para, as in no other city, the aboriginals of Brazil may be seen, both in pure blood and in every possible degree of admixture with whites and blacks in every strata of society. They occupy the highest government positions, own the grandest mansions and finest estates, and figure as capitalists and servants, priests and politicians,

soldiers, sailors, professional men, street peddlers, belles and beaux. The most beautiful woman in the city, wife of a nabob, is said to be of 'alf and 'alf negro and Indian blood. Formerly ladies used to pay their visits and go to church in a hammock, the two ends being carried by men servants, who swung the precious burden between them; but now coaches and carriages are common.

#### ANOTHER IDOL BROKEN.

"The deadly upas-tree," found in the famous Death Valley of Java, has had a most unpleasant reputation, and travelers told all sorts of dismal stories about it. They probably heard these reports from the superstitious natives, and did not dare explore the dangerous region. Merely to breathe the poisoned atmosphere where it grows was believed to be certain death; and the valley was said to be covered with the remains of such birds, beasts and reptiles as had wandered into it.

But an enterprising German traveler has put all these delightfully thrilling horrors to flight by actually going into the valley, and walking all over it without finding so much as a dead fly, let alone the piled-up corpses so vividly described by those who kept at a safe distance from the fatal spot. One of the favorite legends of the valley was that the swiftest bird flying over it would drop dead from the poison inhaled; but Dr. Kuntze declares that it is quite as healthy a region as any other part of Java, which perhaps is not saying much for it. There was a weird fascination about the deadly upas-tree, and it is not altogether pleasant to find that it was only a fable.

#### ARAB LOVE MAKING.

An Arab loves as none but an Arab can love, but is also mightily excitable and easily won. An Arab sees a girl bearing water or brushwood, and in a moment, almost at a glance, is as madly in love as if he had passed years of courtship. He thinks of nothing else, cares and dreams of nothing else, but the girl he loves; and not unfrequently, if he is disappointed in his affection, he pines and dies. In order to commence his suit, he sends for a member of the girl's tribe who has access to the harem, and, first ensuring his secrecy by a solemn oath, confesses his love and entreats his confidant to arrange an interview. The confidant goes to the girl, gives her a flower or a blade of grass, and says, "Swear by Him who made this flower and us also that you will not reveal to any one that which I am about to unfold to you." If the girl will not accept the proposal she will not take the oath; but, nevertheless, keeps the matter perfectly secret from all. If she is favorably disposed to the match she answers, "I swear by Him who made the flower you hold and us," and the place and time of meeting are settled. These oaths are never broken, and it is not long before the ardent lover becomes the happy husband.

Chrome yellow, a very dangerous article, is very generally used by bakers and confectioners to add beauty of color to their goods and to give the appearance of a generous use of eggs.

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