

THE BITE OF A SNAKE.

How to Tell if It Is Poisonous and the Way to Treat It.

If you should be so unfortunate as to be bitten by a snake and were not quite certain what sort of a snake it was, whether poisonous or of the so-called harmless variety, look at the injury. If there are four punctures or even three the chances are that it was not a venomous snake, but if there are only two punctures it is probably you have been bitten by an extremely poisonous snake. While this does not always hold good, as a nonpoisonous snake may have had opportunity to make only two incisions with his four biting teeth, it is best to take no chances at all.

The poisonous snake has but two deadly fangs, generally in the upper jaw. But, no matter what sort of a snake bites you, the head of that snake should wherever possible be kept for identification. If, as is generally the case, the bite is on an extremity, tie one or more ligatures—preferably of broad rubber bands—above the injury. Incise deeply, cutting across the puncture for at least one inch and well beyond the depth reached by the fang. Next wash in running water, manipulating the part to promote free bleeding. If running water is not available suck the wound; then rinse the mouth thoroughly with a solution of potassium permanganate. Now wash the wound well and use in and around it the potassium permanganate solution or inject a 1 to 100 solution of chromic acid, being careful to infiltrate completely not only the wound, but also the surrounding tissue.

Do not give ammonia. Stimulate with small doses of whiskey if indicated, but do not overdo, as more persons have been killed by taking large quantities of whiskey than by snake bite. When positively certain the poison has been removed from the wound loosen cautiously the ligatures that nearest the heart first, but do not remove them so that they may be again tightened if symptoms recur. In all cases the victim must have the best surgical care. The wound should be packed with antiseptic gauze.—Chicago Tribune.

THE BETTER MAN.

Story of Two Aspirants For a Place on the Boat Crew.

A few seasons ago, says a prominent crew coach in Outing, two men were competing closely for a seat in the "varmint" boat. One day I called them together and said:

"Just now you two men are working equally well in the boat, but one has a better scholarship standing than the other, and to me that seems to indicate that one of you has a little more personal pride than the other."

As a matter of fact, the man who was not up to the scratch in his work was a bit the better of the two as far as smoothness in the boat was concerned. I thought the incident might cause him to pick up in his classes. It did not. When the time came to make a final selection of the eight I again called the pair in to see me.

"It's still hard to decide between you two. I would just as soon have you throw a coin to decide the winner," I said.

The man with the poor scholarship record was the first to speak.

"That's all right with me," he said. "The other man thought for a minute. I saw his mouth go tight. Then he said:

"No, sir; that doesn't suit me. One of us must be the best man. I want to know which and to know why I am not the best man."

Some people would probably have thought that fellow conceited, but not if they knew what it means for a youngster to put in months and months of hard training for a crew. The second man was of a quiet type, but after he spoke I knew the thing that every coach is most anxious to find out—that he was the kind who would be pulling hardest when his lungs were feeling like bursting in that last hard half mile. You can guess which man got the place. The man who did not was too easily satisfied.

Detecting Erasures.

If paper upon which erasures of writing have been made is exposed to the vapor of iodine the roughened surface takes a different tint from that portion which has not been tampered with. If the erasure has been lightly made, only the ink or pencil lead being rubbed away and the mark left in the fiber of the paper, iodine vapor causes the writing to reappear. This is because wherever the paper has been roughened more iodine is absorbed than by a smooth surface. This test is effective within three minutes after the making of the alteration.—Exchange.

A Veritable Scheme.

"How do you get your daughter's beau to go home so early, Byones?" "I have a trained phonograph, which plays 'Home, Sweet Home,' at 10, 'Tramp, Tramp, Tramp,' at 10:15 and 'Johnny, Get Your Gun,' at 10:30."—Seattle Star.

Man's Advantage.

One advantage a man has is that whenever he wants anything in the house he can always call to his wife and she'll tell him just where it is, but when a woman wants anything herself she has to hunt for it.—Detroit Free Press.

Its Class.

"So old Billings, supposed to be so rich, did not leave a cent to his pretty young widow?" "No; here was indeed a dead loss."—Baltimore American.

GREAT FOUNTAIN GEYSER.

One of the Many Wonders in the Yellowstone National Park.

The Great Fountain geyser, in the Yellowstone National park, lies a mile and a half southeast of the Fountain geyser. It is the chief wonder of the lower basin and in some respects the most remarkable geyser in the park; its formation is quite unlike that of any other.

At first sight the visitor is tempted to believe that some one has here placed a vast pedestal upon which to erect a monument. It is a broad, circular table about two feet high composed of hard, siliceous deposit. In its surface are numerous pools, molded and ornamented in a manner quite unapproachable, at least on so large a scale, in any other part of the park. In the center of the pedestal, where the monument ought to stand, is a large irregular pool of great depth, full of hot water, forming to all appearances a lovely, quiescent spring.

At times of eruption the contents of this spring are hurled bodily upward to a height sometimes reaching 100 feet. The torrent of water which follows the prodigious downpouring upon the face of the pedestal flows away in all directions over the white geyserite plain. No visitor to the Yellowstone can afford to miss the Great Fountain geyser. — "The Yellowstone National Park," by Hiram Martin Chittenden, Brigadier General United States Army, Retired.

EARTHQUAKES.

How the Process Known to Geologists as "Faulting" Generates.

It is a well known fact that the majority of the severest earthquakes are produced by movements and readjustments of the outer shell of the earth. The process, known to geologists as faulting, is as follows:

Owing to various subterranean causes the solid crust of the earth is put under stress. The stresses keep growing greater until finally they reach the breaking point of the rocks. These yield suddenly and move over another along the line of fracture until the strain is relieved. This breaking of the rocks sometimes along lines hundreds of miles in length and the movement of the broken parts over one another set up jars or vibrations which traveling outward in all directions through the rocks constitute an earthquake.

The severity of the shock depends upon the character and extent of the break, the amount of movement and the distance of the point from the place of origin of the disturbance.

Earthquakes also occur frequently in connection with volcanic eruptions, but these are likely to be more local in character and, on the whole, less severe than those due to faulting.—Review of Reviews.

Vegetable Ink.

There is in Colombia a curious vegetable product known as the ink plant. Its juice, called chanchi, can be used, it is said, without any previous preparation. The letters traced are of a reddish brown color at first, but turn a deep black in a few hours. This curious juice is less injurious to steel pens than the commercial ink. These qualities of the plant seem to have been discovered under the Spanish administration. Some writings intended for the mother country were wet through by sea water on the voyage. While the papers written with common ink were almost illegible, those written with the vegetable ink were quite uninjured. Orders were given in consequence that this plant juice be used for the inscribing of all public documents.—New York American.

On the Sea.

From all antiquity and in all ages men have gone down to the sea in ships and plowed the main. There is a fascination about the ocean that never grows old, and the terrors that encompass the waste of waters seem but to add to its attractions. Perhaps this arises from the fact that the ocean covers the only free land on the globe. The sailor on his humble bark has an equal right of way with the mighty steamship; he pays no rent and calls no man master. Once he touches land he must bow to the law of King This or Queen That, but on the high seas he can roam without let or hindrance and owe allegiance to no ruler but nature. The sailor leads a hard and perilous life and has the single boon of freedom to compensate for risk and privation.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Nose Rings.

Hindu married women wear a nose ring of the value suitable to their position. Sometimes it is simply a wire of gold; sometimes it is set with valuable and brilliant diamonds. Of whatever description, the nose ring is a most hallowed thing. If you are not careful how you speak with the lady about it or if you say, "There is no necessity for wearing such a useless thing," she will understand by this that you wish her husband's death.

A Regular Excuse.

"Does your husband carry much life insurance?" "I don't know the exact amount, but it's just enough so that whenever I want a new gown or hat he always manages to have a premium to meet."—Detroit Free Press.

When the Price Goes Up.

"We never learn to value things until after they are gone."

"That's very true. A silver plated butter dish that cost us \$4 becomes a family plate worth \$100 if burglars break in and steal it."—Detroit Free Press.

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until next week

This space will tell
you why in the
next issue

KNOW THY COUNTRY

III—Telegraph and Telephone

Our transportation facilities are the most perfect product of this great commercial age and the telegraph and telephone systems of this nation crown the industrial achievements of the whole world. These twin messengers of modern civilization, born in the skies, stand today the most faithful and efficient public servants that ever toiled for the human race.

They are of American nativity and while warm from the mind of the inventive genius have, under American supervision, spun a network of wires across the earth and under the seas. Telegraphy, in its early youth, mastered the known world and the telephone has already conquered the earth's surface, and now stands at the seashore ready to leap across the ocean.

No industry in the history of the world has ever made such rapid strides in development and usefulness, and none has ever exerted a more powerful influence upon the civilization of its day than the Telegraph and Telephone. Their achievement demonstrates the supremacy of two distinct types of American genius—invention and organization.

The industry was peculiarly fortunate in having powerful inventive intellect at its source and tremendous minds to direct its organization and growth. It is the most perfect fruit of the tree of American industry and when compared with its European contemporaries, it thrills every patriotic American with pride. Ambitious youth can find no more in-

spring company than the fellowship of the giant intellects that constructed this marvelous industry and a journey along the pathway of its development, illuminated at every mile-post of its progress by the lightning-flashes of brilliant minds, will be taken at a very early date.

A brief statistical review of the industry brings out its growth and magnitude in a most convincing and unforgettable manner.

The telephone service of the United States is the most popular and efficient and its rates are the cheapest of the telephone systems of the world.

We are the greatest talkers on earth. We send 60 per cent of our communications over the telephone. The world has about 15,000,000 telephones and of this number the United States has approximately 9,540,000, Europe 4,020,000 and other countries 1,300,000. According to the latest world telephone census, the total telephone investment is \$1,906,000,000 and of this amount \$1,095,000,000 was credited to the United States, \$636,000,000 in Europe and \$175,000,000 in other countries. The annual telephone conversations total 24,600,000,000 divided as follows: United States 15,000,000,000; Europe 6,500,000,000, and other countries 2,200,000,000. The total world wire telephone mileage is 33,565,000 miles divided as follows: United States 20,248,000, Europe 10,335,000, and other countries 2,979,000. About six per cent of the world's population, and sixty-one per cent of the telephone wire mileage is in the United States.

MISSING LINKS.

Pages of Geological History That Nature Has Destroyed.

New details are continually being added by geologists to the known history of the earth, including the development of plants and animals. However, that history, which is recorded in the rocks, is still fragmentary, like a badly mutilated book. One of the great defects in the record in the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plain regions of this country is the absence of the later part of the cretaceous and the early part of the eocene chapters—perhaps eight to ten millions years ago. A report by the geological survey discusses this missing part of the record and shows that the break must cover a very long period of time.

It is known that at that time the continents were at least as large as and probably larger than they are now, and the oceans were accordingly smaller. Any rocks that were then formed in the sea seem to have been weathered and washed away. Hundreds of kinds of plants and animals that lived before and hundreds that lived after this great period are known, but not one which lived during the period. Strange to say, few if any of the species which existed before the unknown period lived through it.

It is like a play in which the places of one act remain the same as in the preceding but the characters are all new, and yet many of the new players resemble the old ones so much that one is compelled to admit that they are close relatives. In each of the states bordering the Atlantic ocean are layers of rock which were formed before and after the period whose record is missing. In these layers are entombed sea shells of many kinds, but apparently not one species lived through from cretaceous to eocene time.

BECKONING THE DEAD.

The Call of the Indians to Which the Sea Responded. On the rugged coast of Washington

by the Copalis sands there is a tower from which the Indians watch for sea otter. They are very eager after that game, for the hide of one of those creatures is worth all the way from \$500 to \$2,000. Two young Indians were watching one day when they saw a sea otter off in the surf. Two shots from their rifles killed the otter, and then they rushed down to their surfboat. The sea was heavy, and when they were out some distance from the shore their boat broke in two over a comb, and the men were thrown into the sea.

One of the Indians drifted ashore on a piece of wreckage. The other, although a splendid swimmer, was drowned. The news soon spread to the reservation, and the Indians from far and near came to the beach and stood on the sands, silently beckoning to the sea to give up its dead.

It was a solemn, impressive sight—the stalwart, rugged, copper colored men and women standing at the verge of the sea foam asking the sea by the motion of their hands to send the body ashore. For three days they waited and beckoned, and then a dark object was seen drifting into shallow water. Sometimes it was buried completely from view by the heavy surf; then it was seen again a little nearer, and so the body of the dead Indian came ashore at the call of his tribesmen.—Youth's Companion.

The First Great Bank.

The first great bank in the world was the bank of Venice, established in 1187 when the queen city of the Adriatic was the head of the commerce of the western world. At that time the great current of the trade between Europe and Asia passed through the Persian gulf and the Red sea to Alexandria, Egypt, and was carried in ships across the Mediterranean sea and through the Adriatic to Venice, where it was distributed to various parts of Europe. Venice was a sort of automatic republic, founded and supported by its merchants, who were famed throughout the world for their wealth

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Birds in the construction of their nests almost without exception avoid bright colored materials, which might possibly lead to the discovery of their place of abode by an enemy.

"Did you ever write a foolish love letter?" "I never wrote any love letters." "That is practically what I asked you."—Houston Post.

Neighborhood Anyway. "Is he an apostle of humanity?" "Is he? He has twelve children and won't let one of them take music lessons."—Philadelphia Ledger.