DEFORMED HEAD TO SAVE INFANT'S LIFE

Beauty Not First Idea of Disfigurement.

Although not so common as it was in years gone by, there are still numerous places in the world where deformities are manufactured for various purposes. This forms the theme of an interesting article which recently appeared in the Popular Science Magazine by Victor Baymond. The deliberate flattening of the hu-

man head, for instance, says the article, continues to enjoy something

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like universality among savage and semi-barbarious people. Naturally, the operation is carried out during childhood of the subject, when the skull is still soft and malleable. The effect is to make the skull long, or short and broad, according to the particular method favored.

Nowadays, the head so disfigured is regarded as an object of beauty, but beauty was not the initiatory cause of the practice. Indeed, the flattened head was not originally a deliberately arranged result at all.

The custom dates back to the time when the man-pack still wandered from camping place to camping place. During such treks the head of the new-born babe must often have lolled in a dangerous manner, and, no doubt, sometimes resulted in a broken neck, To prevent this it became customary to secure the infant's head by some means during the trek. The flattened head was an unlooked-for product. Time passed, man gave up his nomadism and acquired settled habits, but the flattened head had become a tribal characteristic, and so was perpetuated.

The method employed to flatten the head varies with the district. In some places the child's head is strapped against the headboard of its cradle. In other places the necessary pressure is applied by bandages. Some tribes employ a contrivance made up of two boards. By the Klemantans of Borneo a device is used which flattens the forehead, the object being to give the face, as near as possible, a half-moon shape.

The device, known as Tadal, is secured firmly to the infant's head when it is a month old, but the pressure is applied only when the child sleeps. Contrary to what one would expect, this deformation does not appear to have any injurious effects.

Many savage peoples render the faces of their womenfolk hideous by grotesquely disfiguring their lips. As with the artificial deformation of the head, the operation is carried out during childhood.

The girl's lips are pierced, straws being inserted in the holes. Next day another straw is added, and, when the holes have been sufficiently enlarged, pieces of wood with the thickness of a pencil are plugged in. This process continues until eventually the holes are capable of containing large disks. Filled thus, the lips at first project horizontally from the face, but as the disks grow in size, the facial muscles become unable to support them, and the lips droop.

In the Lake Tchad district of central Africa, the disk in the lower lip eventually reaches the size of a dinner plate, the whole hanging like a shield on the breast. The disk in the upper lip attains the dimensions of a saucer, and droops similarly.

BARESEAST

POETIC FANCY IN LEGEND OF LENIN

How Soviet Leader Earned Love of Allah.

Among the many legends concerning the life and deeds of Nikolai Lenin already incorporated in the popular mythology of the Moslem inhabitants of the soviet union is one passing from mouth to mouth in Turkestan in the form of a song and summarized as follows by Lenold Solovief, a Russian writer who specializes in collecting Lenin stories, according to the New York Times:

The World war was raging and thousands were being slain because the kings of the earth wanted to fill their treasuries and were forcing their subjects to go to the front and kill each other. The stench of the fallen men and the noise of the conflict rose to high heaven and annoyed Allah himself, who concluded it was time to call together his most faithful followers and select one wise and strong enough to end all this misery. In order to find the best man for

the job, Allah set up a double test. His elected agent must be able to turn over a huge rock weighing 60 poods (about a ton) and to give the correct answer to the following riddle: "Who is the strongest on earth, who is the happlest, and who is the weakest and most unhappy?"

There were many candidates for the glorious mandate, but none was able to turn over the rock, although they tried so hard that the stone soon bore traces of their fingers. Neither could anyone solve the riddle, despite the variety of answers, most of which made Allah the strongest and happlest and Satan the weakest and most unhappy. Finally, Allah noticed a man of slight figure but with a very high forehead looking intently at the blg rock. Maybe this little fellow can do it, thought the Most High,

When the last candidate threw off his coat and stood revealed in all his physical weakness, Allah's heart sank. But what was his surprise to see the man walk away from the rock and return in a few minutes with several beams of wood. One of these he shoved under the big stone. Then another was placed under the free end of the first, and by means of this improvised lever the rock was easily turned over, revealing the poisonous serpent Ok-Ilen, whose tail, weighing 100 pounds, had helped hold the stone down.

Then the little champion answered Allah's riddle as follows: "The strongest is the most intelligent, who wins every one's love; the happlest is the most honorable, who gives happiness to many; the most unhappy and the weakest is the man beloved by nobody.'

Allah saw how wonderful was the talent of this man. So he lifted him up into heaven, where he spent 50 days and 50 nights learning the wisdom of the Most High. Thus equipped the successful candidate was named Lenin and sent back to earth. Lenin strode over the earth and stopped the stream of blood. He brought happlness to humanity. Then he returned to rest in Allah's halls. He left the world pacified and happy. His name shall endure while the word "happiness" lives. So runs the legend. He Liked Boxing Paul was quite fond of boxing. Whenever he was with his little pal Frank he never lost an opportunity to deal him a blow. One day Frank, growing weary of being the daily victim of these blows, bolstered up his strength and dealt Paul such a box that he sent him home crying. Rejoicing over his victory, Frank hurried in and told his grandfather. His grandfather reprimanded him, saying: "Frank, do you think that is anything to be proud of? Don't you know that the good Lord sees all you do? In the day the sun is God's eye and at night the moon shines on all "Oh, that's all right," replied Frank, "I hit Paul on the shady side of the house."-Indianapolis News.

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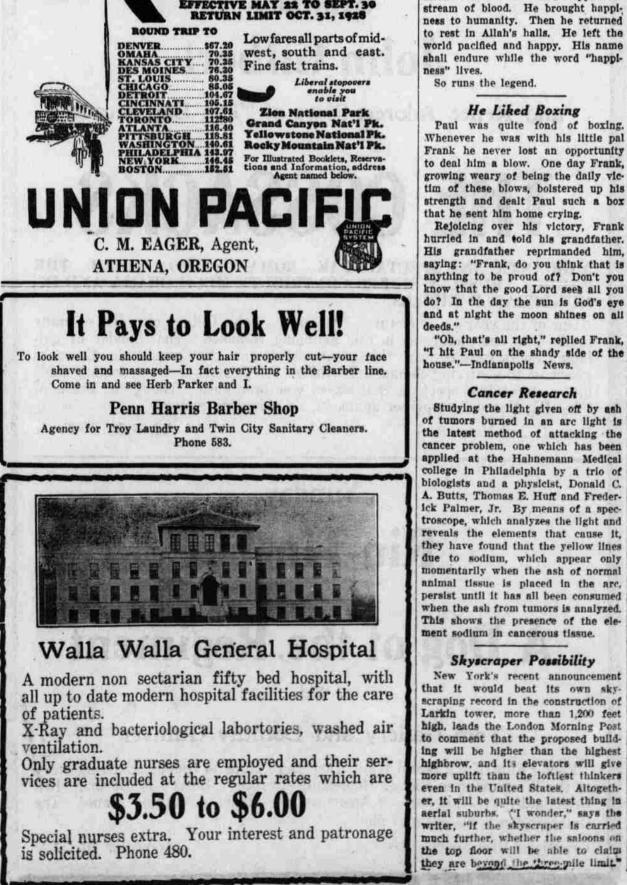
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