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FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By F. O. Alexander
(Western Newspaper Union)

PURPOSE OF SPLEEN FOUND BY PHYSICIAN

Organ Is to Neutralize Malarial Toxines.

San Antonio, Texas.—Discovery of the purpose of the spleen, a puzzle to most scientists and physiologists, has been made by Dr. Charles A. R. Campbell, scientist and fever specialist of San Antonio.

The spleen, Doctor Campbell told the county medical society, is to neutralize the toxins thrown off by the malarial parasite, thereby perpetuating the disease by preventing the host (the body into which the parasite enters), man and the parasite from being overwhelmed by the toxins.

His discovery, the doctor said, places malaria in a new and different light and shows it to be a plan of nature's for the human being to carry and diffuse the disease.

Doctor Campbell's finding was accidentally brought about in his study of bats, for which he has received recognition in many parts of the world. In dissecting bats in 1903, he found that the bat's spleen relatively was 8.25 times as heavy as the spleen of man. This was the clue that led to the discovery.

Doctor Campbell's findings have been accepted in the Texas State Medical Journal. He sent a copy of his report to Lieut. Gen. Giovanni Marieni, chief of engineers of the Italian army, because Italy was the first nation to recognize his work on the hygienic value of bats as eradicators of malaria.

For 28 years Doctor Campbell has studied bats and has erected bat roosts near the city, where thousands of the creatures live. Due to his work, San Antonio has the only municipal bat roost in the United States.

Cheap Cuts of Meat Are Best Buy for Home Use

Columbia, Mo.—The number of calories in a beefsteak does not depend on what the housewife pays for it. In fact the best bargains in calories are the cheap but tough cuts and the stylish porterhouse is the worst buy on the entire carcass. Dr. A. T. Edinger of the University of Missouri agricultural experiment station has made an economical study of the American piece de resistance and finds that the poor for once have the advantage, in some ways.

He found that a rib roast is more economical than a loin roast, but that the clod or chuck produced the most boneless meat at a lower cost than any other roasting portion. But if the housewife should ask for a piece of beef off of the "plate," she would get the best bargain of all.

A steer that is neither too fat nor too thin provides the largest amount of protein or muscle-building material in a pound of the lean portion, Dr. Edinger found. Thin animals have more water and less protein in their muscles and fat animals more fat and less protein. Therefore it is best to buy from a piece that is just medium fat.

Family Holds English Rat-Catching Record

London.—England's rat-catching record is held by the Jarvis family, three of whom are girls. Bags of 700 to 1,000 rats a week are nothing out of the ordinary for the Jarvises.

Misses Nell and Kitty Jarvis, twenty-one and twenty-three, respectively, are on the rat-catching job every night in the week, often assisted by their sister, Rose, who is twelve. They also accept extermination contracts where cockroaches, mice and black beetles are concerned.

The girls come by their rat-catching abilities quite naturally, as they were taught by their father, John Jarvis, official rat catcher to the London county council, and to most of the government offices.

Jarvis claims to be the only rat catcher in Great Britain whose father and mother and grandfathers on both sides have followed the same trade.

They Like Felix

"Felix," a slow-moving old rat, is a pensioner at the Derby railway station, London, and is jealously protected by the station's staff. He will nibble his food, undisturbed, in full view of the throngs that pass in and out. If anyone tries to molest him, the station employees are quite indignant. It is their boast that no dog or ferret dare touch Felix and that he is too wise to take poison.

Lions Like Catnip.

We have all heard that cats like catnip. It remained for government scientists to apply this knowledge practically to the big cats. They found the hunting of mountain lions and bobcats with dogs and guns to prevent destruction of Western cattle was an expensive proposition. Then they thought of catnip. Large quantities of this aromatic herb were raised. From this, chemists extracted the oil which gives it its odor. Now it is no longer necessary to look up the lions; they walk right into traps scented with catnip oil.

A TOUCH OF OLD SPAIN

These entertainers have been brought to the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition in Philadelphia where 150 years of American Independence is being celebrated, by the Los Angeles County, California, Chamber of Commerce. The westerners have built a fine old Spanish mission in the Palace of Foreign, Civic, Fashion and Agriculture Display and there show the resources and advantages of their native heath. The musicians and dancers entertain all visitors who enter the patio to rest a bit after "doing the exposition." The Exposition continues until December 1.

GOAT MAN UNMOVED BY $200,000 LEGACY

But He Celebrates by Buying Raincoats for Friends.

New York.—George J. Harding, the "goat man" at Palisades amusement park, refused to get excited over a $200,000 fortune he is said to have inherited in England from the estate of a great-uncle. He was more interested in his goats.

"Yes," he said, "I had word from the lawyers over there that it's coming to me. My uncle's been dead six years. They've been litigating over his money ever since. I'm perfectly contented like I am; don't care much if I never get mine."

But there was one little incident to belie the calm demeanor of the "goat man." Outwardly he was indifferent to his new wealth, but he admitted, half sheepishly, half defiantly, that he had gone on a splurge and bought 25 raincoats for friends and associates in the amusement park.

"The boys sorta expected me to celebrate a little," he said defensively. "Besides," and there was a twinkle in his eyes, "I believe they ought to have something for a rainy day."

Up at Westerly, R. I., Harding who is forty-eight years old, has a farm of 180 acres stocked with a herd of several hundred goats.

"You know," and the kindly "goat man" grew wistfully confidential, "I've got a theory that the casein can be taken from goat's milk and crystallized, just like they make malted milk, and that it'll do a lot for people that have tuberculosis. That's one of the things I'm working on."

Seventeen years now he has been at Palisade park summers, hooking up his goats to little wagons and giving kids the thrill of their lives by letting them "go driving."

"I'm right well satisfied with life," he said, "as things are. Of course I've always known I'd have to quit working some time, but it's hard to break away. I've tried for ten years and now I guess I'll have to; it's up to me to go over there and get this fortune business straightened up."

Just the same he'll finish the season at the amusement park and take his time about going after the money.

Fireflies That Glow All Time, Science's Latest

New York.—Fireflies that glow all the time, thanks to short-circuiting injections of adrenalin, are the latest contribution of science. William S. Creighton, Princeton graduate student, who is working under the direction of Dr. Frank E. Lutz, curator of entomology and director of the American Museum of Natural History's station for the study of insects in the Harriman state park, made the discovery.

Mr. Creighton has found in the course of his studies of the nature of firefly light that heavy "shots" of adrenalin, administered with a syringe between the firefly's body segments, changed the intermittent flashing characteristic of these insects to a sustained luminosity. In some instances he has kept individual insects "lighted up" twenty-four hours, but these specimens invariably died, presumably through expenditure of too much vital energy.

Big English University for Mount of Olives

Jerusalem.—A $250,000 English university is to be built within the next two years on the slope of the Mount of Olives. The nucleus is the present English college in Jerusalem, also known as the Anglican Bishops' mission. The enlarged scope of the institution will be modeled after the American university at Beirut.

The Meraat el Shark, the anti-Zionist Arab newspaper, welcomes the proposed English university at Jerusalem, declaring that it will counteract the influence of the Hebrew university and will tend to revive Arab learning and Arab nationalism.

Keen Policewoman

London.—Commandant Mary Allen, co-founder of the women's police service, has become known as Europe's "flying cop," since she is one of the most traveled police officials in the world. When possible, she makes her trips by airplane. She thinks nothing of flying to Paris, Berlin or other points in one day, on some important case in which a woman is involved, and back to London the next. The setting up of a women's international police commission was due primarily to efforts of Commandant Allen.

Much Oil From Whale

The quantity of oil obtained from an average whale is about 2,000 gallons.

Dog Meat in China.

The dog meat which enters into the dietary of the Chinese is obtained from a special race, raised for the purpose, of which the characteristic is the color of the tongue. That organ should be of a blue-black color. These dogs are fed on milk and rice for about two months until they reach a certain weight. The number of edible dogs eaten annually in China is estimated at five millions.

Doctor to Aid Indian Fight on Trachoma

Philadelphia.—Dr. L. Webster Fox, prominent ophthalmologist of this city, will again pass the summer among the Indians of Montana to prevent the spread of blindness from inroads made into the sight of 20 per cent of them by trachoma.

Doctor Fox left Philadelphia recently for the West, where he will attend two medical conferences in the middle of July and give his services without remuneration to hundreds of suffering Indians.

In the summer of 1924 Doctor Fox performed remarkable operations upon the eyes of the Blackfeet Indians at Browning, Mont. Out of 400 cases practically all have been cured. Their gratitude for his services to them was so great that Doctor Fox was made a chief of the tribe at an elaborate ceremony and presented with rare gifts of Indian art and craftsmanship.

This year he will go among the Crow Indians at Billings, Mont. A large percentage of the Crow tribe are suffering from trachoma, which appears to be spreading rapidly among them.

Water Power From Glaciers.

Recent investigations of the water-power resources of streams in the basin of Colorado river by the Department of the Interior have shown glacial lakes on the west slope of the Wind river range near the continental divide have a combined storage capacity of more than half a million acre-feet of water and may be utilized as reservoirs for use in irrigation or in generating power. Ten power sites are found which range in capacity from 120 horsepower with the natural flood of the river to 2,500 horsepower with regulated stream flow.

Long Trail of Trees

A tree trail, 500 miles long, stretches across the bleak Alaskan hills as a tribute to the native's ingenuity. The trail was made by setting willow posts, which took root and grew into trees. Every now and then along the route native characters and English words denote distances from various camps and villages.

Faust Was Magician.

Faust was a famous magician of the Sixteenth century, a native of Suabia. A rich uncle having left him a fortune, Faust ran to every excess and when his fortune was exhausted he made a pact with the devil for a certain number of years, at the end of which time the devil was to possess his soul. His sweetheart was Marguerite and Wagner his faithful servant. Gounod wrote the music for the opera called "Faust" and the libretto was composed by Berler and Carre. Goethe wrote a dramatic poem called "Faust," and Bayle Bernard made an English version.

Derricks Must Be of Steel.

Because of the high winds prevailing in the Alaskan petroleum fields it has been found advisable to build the derricks of steel instead of wood.

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