

HOW

DISTANCES MAY BE TOLD BY THE ORDINARY MAN.—If you devote your Saturdays to golfing, shooting, or taking photographs, you have, in all probability, met the problem of judging distances.

Bear in mind these few simple rules, and your difficulty will be lessened. With the naked eyes, if you have average sight, you can see the whites of people's eyes at 30 yards; at 80 yards you can just see their eyes.

When all parts of their body are distinguishable, they are 100 yards away; when the outlines of their faces are just visible, the distance is 200 yards; and when a face appears as a separate dot, you should be 400 yards away, says London Tit-Bits.

Six hundred yards away a group of people can be distinguished singly; but at a farther distance than this no detail of the human form can be determined. Yet at 1,200 yards you should be able to tell a man on horseback from a man on foot; at 2,000 yards he is simply a dot on the landscape.

The majority of people, too, are unable to determine the wind's velocity. When the smoke from a chimney moves in a straight, vertical column, it means that a one or two-miles-an-hour breeze is blowing. A three-miles-an-hour wind will just stir the leaves on the trees.

Twenty-five miles an hour will sway the trunks; at 40 the small branches will break and it takes a mile-a-minute gale to snap the trunks of big trees.

How Butterscotch Got Its Distinctive Name

Butterscotch seems to have grown in public favor recently, for now, in addition to the old-fashioned butterscotch candy, there are pies, soft drinks, ice cream and many other things made with this flavor.

It seems that butterscotch was not of Scotch origin, as the word is a colloquialism meaning "to scorch." And that is just what butterscotch candy is—candy that has been scorched. In the commercial manufacture of butterscotch a great deal of care must be taken to see that the burning process does not leave the candy with any taste except that which one expects to characterize the flavor. The cooking is done by gas, and each pot contains a thermometer and stirring rod. The batch of candy must be stirred properly and the correct temperature maintained at all times. In order to do this, gas is used, as with this fuel delicate temperature control is secured.

How Pearls Are Tested

A new process for distinguishing between natural and cultured pearls was described before the French academy recently.

The method, very simple and inexpensive, requires the inserting of a miniature tube in the hole bored in the pearl for beading purposes. Within the tube are two little mirrors very close together, at right angles to each other and at an angle of 45 degrees with the sides of the tube.

When a light is thrown into the tube on the first mirror it is reflected on the second mirror if the pearl is composed of concentric layers, as is the case with all natural pearls. If the core of the pearl is not composed of concentric spheres the ray of light instead of striking the second mirror shines through the substance of which the cultivated pearl is made and appears as a tiny spot of light on the surface.

How Whales Are Warned

The simplest and most constant sound in Nature, the washing of the sea, serves as a radio beacon to warn whales, porpoises, and many fishes to keep away from the shore and below the surface in rough weather.

According to Dr. Austin Clark, formerly naturalist on the scientific ship Albatross, "The simple breaking of the waves is of immense importance to sea creatures as an index of the dangers they are running. In times of storm the repellent sound increases, and by this they are warned to keep farther from the shore and farther down beneath the surface."

How to Tell Tree's Age

The forest service says that one of the chief ways of ascertaining the age of a tree is by counting the whorls of the branches. In some species the whorls are more noticeable than in others, particularly in the Eastern white pine you will note for each year the tree sets out a whorl of branches. It has been possible to stand off and count anywhere from 3 to 75 years in this manner. The whorls come out regularly and leave clear spaces between each year. It is not possible to tell the age so well in broadleaf trees.

WHY

Yawn Is Contagious Explained by Physicians

People have a natural tendency to yawn, to cleanse waste products from the blood with a gulp of oxygen, strongest when tired, but always present. The sight of another indulging in the luxury of a yawn is all that is needed to stimulate this unconscious craving.

It is not only the power of suggestion, that turns this latent desire into an irresistible impulse, but even more the element of mimicry. Man, like the monkey and all other animals, has a tendency to imitate the actions of another, especially if such actions appeal to any subconscious desire on his part.

Such is the explanation of the trait offered in the physiological laboratory of the Middlesex College of Medicine and Surgery by Dr. Francesco Mauriello, assistant to the head of the department, and Dr. A. Edward Balboni, professor of neurology at Middlesex, after Dr. Walter B. Cannon, of Harvard, had admitted his inability to answer the question.

Why Cross Is Regarded as Symbol of a Kiss

Whatever your sex, at some time or other you have probably written a letter and put some "crosses" in it—for kisses. But have you ever wondered why a cross should be used as the written symbol of a kiss?

This story takes us back to the times when few could read, and still fewer could write. In that respect the nobility were no better off than those of a lower station in life, but deeds transferring property, wills and other documents had to be signed somehow. So those who could not write their names "made their mark," and this, in an age when religious symbolism was very much in evidence, almost invariably took the form of a cross. From motives of reverence the shape used was not that of the cross of Calvary, but the St. Andrew's cross, which resembles the letter "X." Having duly made their mark, the signatories of a document then kissed it—partly as a pledge of good faith and partly as an act of reverence. And so a cross put on paper became associated with a kiss.—London Answers.

How Tuberculosis Acts

The public health service says that races differ very much in their resistance to tuberculosis. The colored population of the United States has a death rate from tuberculosis approximately three times as great as that of the white. The American Indian, likewise, is extremely susceptible to both pulmonary and other forms of tuberculosis. The disease often runs an extremely rapid course to a fatal termination. The Jew, on the other hand, among whose race tuberculosis has been present for many centuries, resists the disease well, and though frequently of frail physique, often makes a recovery under adverse conditions. The Irish, on the other hand, do not resist tuberculosis well, while the Italians do.

How to Waterproof Clubs

A new process for treating wooden golf clubs makes them waterproof and extremely hard, says Popular Science Monthly. Heads of seasoned persimmon wood are subjected to a vacuum that extracts every particle of air and moisture from the wood, which then is impregnated with the newly discovered chemical. The club heads then are dried and hardened.

Clubs treated in this manner are said to have greater driving power than other wooden clubs and not to shrink or expand with varying atmospheric conditions. Inserted face plates are not required, since the chemically treated wood is itself harder than fibre, bone or ivory.

How Ghost Stories Start

"Haunted houses," of which almost every community has had one or more at some time or another, may be simply old untenanted houses or houses with loose water piping, according to a theory advanced by water company engineers. Noises are frequently transmitted from one house to another when water is drawn. Vibrations are set up in the pipe and if the pipe is not securely fastened it and connecting pipes will hammer against the joist or wall. The noise is most perceptible when the water is turned off quickly and the "watch hammer," as it is called, makes considerable racket.—Utility Bulletin.

Why "Fizz" Is Valuable

The fizz in the pop bottle has gone up in the world, says Popular Science Monthly, for surgeons are considering seriously its use as an anesthetic in the operating room. At a clinic recently held in Philadelphia Dr. Benn Morgan of Chicago demonstrated its use before the Eastern Society of Anesthetists. Carbon dioxide, Doctor Morgan explained, is the nonpoisonous anesthetic used by nature itself.

If you are hurt badly in an accident your breathing is lessened, and an excess quantity of carbon dioxide in your blood makes you fall asleep.

How Dew Is Formed

Dew is moisture condensed from the atmosphere, including the air contained in soil and gathered in small drops on the surface of plants and other bodies, which radiate heat well, but conduct it badly. Frost is formed on nights when the dew point is below freezing point.

How Denver Got Name

Denver is named for Gen. James W. Denver, who lived from 1817 to 1892 and was the first territorial governor of Kansas. Colorado was originally included within the Kansas territory, and Denver is said to have been one who first suggested the name of Colorado when that region was set apart. He had been a California congressman, and then commissioner of Indian affairs and served during the Civil war in the Union army.

Reason in Animals

Whether animals think or not is a moot question among philosophers and scientists. The higher animals show considerable intelligence in certain matters, such as in getting food and escaping from enemies. Modern science is inclined to think that the difference between the intelligence of human beings and animals is one of degree and not of kind. In animals instinct plays a much larger part than it does in people.—Pathfinder Magazine

The Selfish Sex

"Women are such selfish creatures! There was an extra chop at breakfast and my wife insisted upon my eating it. It was all because she wanted to revel in the satisfaction of self-denial. A case of pure selfishness." "And what did you do?" "Oh, I let her have her own way and I ate the chop. You won't find many husbands as indulgent as I am."—Boston Transcript.

Has a Boiling Lake

The Grande Soufriere, of which the chief feature is the remarkable Boiling lake, in the West Indian island of Dominica, is but little known even to the islanders who are constantly reminded of its presence, says Nature Magazine. Clouds of steam indicate where it lies in the mountains, and to Roseau, the island's port, the detonations from its steam vents proclaim its close proximity. It is only six miles from the town as the crow flies, but until an air route is established, man must foot it over a difficult and even dangerous mountain trail.

Courage Crowning Virtue

Courage is a gem of the first water. Its association is with the brave and noble. Its contrast is the coward and his meanness. It is the virtue that makes the difference between a true man and one living below the line of his privileges.

Courage means something more than bravery. Bravery belongs to the battlefield, but courage moves in quiet places and grows like the ferns, rather in the shade. It takes grit to be courageous. It is more telling than thrilling.—London Tit-Bits.

Lovers of horses, and there are many in the country, read with pleasure the news that a saddle horse sold for \$25,000 at the recent horse show in Kansas City. Of course the animal was a thoroughbred, a three-year-old, five-galting animal, prize winner in the sweepstakes class where many other beautiful and well-trained horses were shown. It was a royal honor this young animal won, and it was a royal price he brought, the highest price, horse historians claim, ever paid for a saddle horse in America. The sale illustrates the fact that men and women do love horses, and the thousands of visitors at the horse show there proved the measure of public interest when these aristocrats are on view in the show ring.

It's all very well to have standards, if we have sense enough to realize that there are other standards in the world and that these other standards may be even better than our own. The man who is so sure that his standards are right, who refuses to investigate other standards, usually short-changes himself, writes Tom Dreier in the Forbes Magazine. The wise man lives an experimental life. To him nothing is constant but change. He is always willing to try something new or at least to open his mind to stories about something new. The open-minded man is the only one who is growing.

According to the New York World, some Wall street workers now wear the smock, such as artists wear. The smock is a good thing in a land of liberty, equality and fraternity. And it assists young men and women to keep their minds off their clothes and on their jobs.

LOCOMOTIVES CONSUME 27 TIMES OWN WEIGHT

"To do the work, to get the cash, to buy the fuel, to make the steam, to do the work."

This, according to J. H. Dyer, general manager for Southern Pacific company, is the endless 'song of the locomotive' as it hauls the nation's freight across the continent.

Consuming twenty-seven times its own weight in fuel each year the average locomotive must perform work equivalent to hauling one ton of freight 139 times around the world before it has earned the cost of its annual fuel supply.

During 1925 the company's road engines burned an average of 4,948,210 pounds of fuel per unit. In other words each of 1,358 freight and passenger locomotives in regular service that year required an average of 58 carloads of 43 tons each to keep up steam in its boilers. In all, the company last year used 3,359,835 tons of fuel oil and coal.

"Indirectly, as well as directly, the railroads are a tremendous factor in the nation's industrial prosperity," Dyer said. "They use one ton of coal out of every four tons mined in the United States. Their purchases from other industries total approximately one and three quarter billion dollars annually.

"Each year they pay out over three billion dollars in wages, which expenditures, passing through regular channels of trade, are an important factor in sustaining both business and manufacturing. In the instance of coal the railroad's purchases are equivalent to providing means of support for one out of every four miners in the country.

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