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### Experiments Show How Octopus Secures Prey

Experiments have been made in a specially devised tank, in order to test the truth of many stories told of octopi attacking human beings and dragging them to the sea bottom. In the tank with the octopus experimented with there was placed a "dummy" of the same specific gravity as a man, and this was baited with a crab. Attracted by this tempting morsel, the octopus made for the figure, seized it in its powerful tentacles, and tried to drag it under water, but without success. It then went to one side of the tank and, holding onto the edge of the glass with some of its arms, it dragged its prey beneath the surface and crushed the crab shell with its powerful jaws.

It is believed that these experiments afford proof that the octopus can drag its victims far below the surface of the water only near rocks to which it can attach its "suckers." There is one spot in the Bay of Naples where these creatures attain a large size, and now and then a fisherman is reported missing. It is thought that such disappearances are due to the unfortunate man's being caught by the leg by a concealed octopus and dragged under water. In the case of such a repulsive and powerful creature as the octopus, it is difficult to separate fact from fiction.

### Victory Achieved in Keeping Soul Young

Byron reminds us that "time writes no wrinkles on the azure brow of the ocean," but can we say that there is any other brow anywhere upon which he does not place his tell-tale marks? We look into the glass with a close scrutiny some day and the face that greets us there shows unmistakable signs of his passing.

And yet we wonder if it is quite right to blame all that we see in the glass on Time, when we think of the needless worry and fret with which we crowd our lives. But the brow of a man's soul—is it not possible to keep it free from the furrows and scars and wrinkles that are left elsewhere?

Even if we have to allow that the weight of the years and the years' cares and responsibilities and disappointments must bend down the frame a little, and take from the step something of its elasticity, might we not hope that the soul would be able to keep young and fresh and buoyant through all the years?

If we could manage to keep the soul young, why need we care what else may happen? If we could learn the secret of how that could be done would it not be one of the finest lessons we had learned all our life through?—Exchange.

### Got "Peeping Tom"

Something exceedingly antique and rare in the legal line was presented in Rochdale, England, when a young man was arraigned in the magistrate's court on the charge of "unlawfully listening by night under walls, windows and eaves of Rochdale Infirmary, to hearken after the discourse, and therefrom to frame slanders and mischievous tales." He resisted capture when caught up a spout looking through the nurses' sitting-room window and was struck on the head with a hammer by an infirmary official, says the Cincinnati Enquirer. The charge was preferred under an old common law respecting "night walkers and eavesdroppers."

### "Bombs" From Trees

Coulter's pine, one of the largest trees that grows in California, emulates the military airplane in its method of distributing seed. This giant fir produces enormous cones, in which are attached the seeds. The seeds are held securely as long as the fruit is not checked in its flight through the air. Should the fruit, as very often happens, be blown against an obstacle, such as a tree-branch, the device which holds the seed unclasps, and its burden falls to the earth. The whole idea closely resembles one of the worst features of aerial war, although instead of a devastating bomb, the flying fruit drops a seed that may grow up into a useful tree.

### Ocean Temperature

The surface water of the ocean varies in temperature with the latitude. The hottest water, about 80 degrees, is at the equator, and the coldest at the poles. At a depth of 700 feet, however, the ocean, even in the tropics, is extremely cold. This icy water has drifted down from the poles, spreading its chilling effect over the entire sea. In the lowest depths the temperature is very close to the freezing point. There is no danger that the ocean will ever freeze, because the water is in perpetual motion through waves, tides and currents, and also because the warm water at the equator keeps the general temperature from dropping too low.

### "Curfew" in America

There are no states in the Union where the curfew as it was known in the early days is enforced. Formerly, the curfew was sounded as a signal for all fires and lights to be put out. This was because heat was obtained from open fireplaces, and the measure was regarded as necessary for the safety of the community in order to prevent fires. According to Bouvier's dictionary, some states have enacted legislation in regard to the curfew, but it is used generally as a convenient method of letting the inhabitants know what time of night it is.

### Immense Belt of Air Surrounds the Earth

Man devotes a lot of attention to the air these days. Now that radio concerts are drifting through the air for twenty-four hours a day and modern Magellans are circumnavigating the globe in flying machines, the air has achieved an importance never accorded it in the days when it was employed almost exclusively for breathing purposes. And in view of the new fame it has achieved, it is a coincidence that science has discovered that apparently more air surrounds the earth than ever before was suspected.

A short time ago the Abbe Moreaux, noted French astronomer, announced that scientific tests seemed to indicate that the atmosphere extended about 540 miles beyond the earth's surface. This is more than five times as far as science previously had estimated the atmosphere's height.

The apparent existence of this unknown atmosphere layer was determined by ingenious observations of the aurora borealis. Simultaneous exposure of more than six hundred photographs from different points and subsequent mathematical calculation indicated that the aurora extended its electrical manifestations 540 miles above the earth. It was assumed that these phenomena could not display themselves in empty space, and it was concluded in consequence that there must be some sort of atmosphere 540 miles or more away.—Popular Science Monthly.

### Cowbird Shirks Duty of Raising Its Young

So far as known, cowbirds never build nests. They do not even pair. A general system of concubinage prevails among them. The female cowbird secretly deposits her eggs in the nests of other birds, generally of smaller species such as vireos and field sparrows. In this respect the cowbird resembles the European cuckoo. The young cowbird is reared in the nest of a strange bird. Just as soon as it can fly it leaves the nest of its nurse and seeks the company of other cowbirds which have come into the world in the same disgraceful manner. There are many cases where the young cowbird, which is much the larger bird, crowds the young vireos or sparrows entirely out of the nest. The other birds never detect the deception and go on feeding the young cowbird until it can fly. The cowbird, which is found in the United States, Canada and Mexico, is black in color with a coffee-brown head. It is so called because it is fond of the company of cows. Whole flocks of cowbirds may be seen following the grazing cattle about the pasture.

### Gates Have History

A pair of wooden gates which stood in front of the palace of beauty at the British Empire exhibition are copies of the sacred gates of the Teheran mosque and have a most romantic and tragic history. They were made by a poor Persian wood-carver, who defied the decrees that they were not to be copied. Each day he made a pilgrimage to the mosque, committed some detail to memory, and then went home and wrought it in the wood. But his visits caused suspicion to fall upon him, he was watched, his secret discovered, and, on the completion of his task, he was found murdered, and his work disappeared. Presently the gates came into the hands of Persian dealers, who sold them at a sacrifice rather than keep them, and at length they were recognized in a small London curio shop, and became one of Wembley's multitude of attractions.

### Jesus' Mother Tongue

The mother tongue of Jesus was probably the Syriac dialect of the Aramaic language which was generally spoken in Palestine, Syria and Mesopotamia. The people of Galilee, where Jesus was brought up, generally spoke the provincial language with a peculiar accent, which distinguished them from the people of Jerusalem and other parts of Palestine (Mark 14:70 and Matthew 26:73). There appears to be no evidence that Jesus ever spoke any foreign tongue such as Greek or Latin. Neither is it likely that He could read the Hebrew in the original, although the Syriac language which He spoke contained many Hebrew words in its vocabulary.—Pathfinder Magazine.

### Should Buy Some

"Yes, poor little Tommy seems very queer," remarked Mrs. Jones to her visitor. "I really don't know what to do for the best."

"By Jove!" drawled her self-important neighbor.

"I've got some medicine for him, but it doesn't seem to be helping much."

"By Jove!" drawled the visitor again.

"Mummie," broke in little Dolly, "why not take the gentleman's advice and buy some Jove?"—Detroit Free Press.

### Overshadowing Genius

"We have persuaded one of the most eloquent of our prominent citizens to introduce you as the speaker of the evening."

"I appreciate the compliment," answered Senator Sorghum. "Only the trouble about an eloquent introduction is that your audience is liable to get enthusiastic and regard the invited speaker as interrupting what might have been a pleasant occasion."—Washington Star.

## People to Get Acquainted With

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