

RAVAGES OF RATS.

Why and How Man Should Strive to Exterminate the Rodents.

The only wild animal that lives under the same roof with man is the rat, says the Literary Digest. We pay for its keep, although we are not on friendly terms with it. In return it plagues us in many ways. It gnaws cur walls and furniture, steals our food and, above all, is active in the spread of disease. The annual rat bill of the United States for food alone is estimated by Mary Dudderdge, writing in the Forecast, at \$160,000,000.

The rat not only disseminates bubonic plague, but carries tapeworms, trichinae, flukes, roundworms and other parasites, besides being suspected as an active agent in communicating leprosy and infantile paralysis. It can gnaw through any common building material except stone, hard brick, cement, glass and iron. It destroys whole fields of grain, climbs trees to steal fruit, eats both fowls and their eggs and destroys game. It steals costly furs and laces for its nests when it can get them. Much of our annual loss by fire is due to the rat, and it also starts floods by burrowing in dams and levees.

The modern way of attacking the rat, this writer says, "is to build it out." The ratproofing of buildings is described as "a cheap form of insurance against fire and pestilence." Miss Dudderdge continues:

"When rats get into ratproof buildings we have to resort to traps and poison to get them out, the former being the least objectionable. In the use of traps it must be borne in mind that the rat is extremely cautious and will not enter strange looking contrivances in search of food if plenty of other nourishment that is not open to suspicion is available. The trap should be strong enough so that the rat cannot force its head between the wire and escape and should be dipped in boiling water or smoked before being set, to kill the human smell or that of rats previously caught. It should not be placed in an open space, but along the wall or in a narrow runway, for the rat's vision is somewhat defective in the daytime, and, depending on its whiskers as a guide, it has to keep close to some wall or other boundary. Fish makes an excellent bait, but any odorous edible different from the animal's customary diet is likely to attract it. Poisoning should not be resorted to in dwellings, and some of the most efficient poisons are so dangerous that they should be used only by experts."

Kean and Macready.

When Edmund Kean and Macready, intense rivals, played in the same pieces at Drury Lane it was usual to consult them in the course of the evening as to what they would appear in next. One night when the prompter was sent to ask Mr. Macready what he would play with Mr. Kean the great tragedian frowned upon him till he blushed. "Sir," he roared, "how should I know what the man would like to play?" The prompter retired to seek the desired information from Mr. Kean. "Sir," said Mr. Kean sharply, "how should I know what the fellow can play?"

No Nervous Strain.

Crawford—The elephant sleeps only five hours out of every twenty-four.

Crabshaw—Very true, but just stop and consider that the elephant doesn't have to attend lectures or the opera, listen to sermons or lend an ear to some fellow's description of his newest baby or car, and you will realize that he has a pretty soft time of it, taken all in all.—Life.

Skin of Sharks.

The rough skin of sharks is employed by joiners for polishing fine grained wood and for covering the hulls of swords, tools, and the like, to make them firmer in the grasp. The flesh is coarse, but is sometimes eaten. The fins abound in gelatin and are much used by the Chinese in making a rich gelatinous soup. The liver yields a large quantity of valuable oil.

St. Peter's in Rome.

In Rome fifteen architects succeeded one another in the construction of St. Peter's during the pontificates of twenty-eight popes and during a period of 170 years. According to the calculation of Carlo Fontana, the cost of the building,

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exclusive of the bronze used, was over \$60,000,000. It takes \$50,000 a year to keep the edifice in repair.

Gets Him Anyhow.

Mrs. Noseup had always contended that her husband's tobacco habit was a vile and injurious one. "There," said Mr. Noseup, turning away from his scientific journal, "it says here that there are no microbes to be found in tobacco." "That's where the microbe shows his good sense, Mr. Noseup."—Exchange.

Wheat Trains in Manchuria.

Wheat comes into the mills and to the rivers and railways of Manchuria from almost incredible distances. In the winter, when the rough, ungraded roads are frozen hard and smooth, the natives haul wheat for 200 miles in some cases by means of a heavy two wheeled cart drawn by four to eight mules. Long trains of these carts, traveling together for protection and companionship at night, can be seen on the main highways all winter and are the most picturesque feature of Manchurian life.

Edge of a Windstorm.

A curious example of how sharply the edge of a windstorm may be defined is reported by the captain of a bark. When off Valparaiso, the captain says, a whirlwind came along and passed over the stern of the vessel. A great sea accompanied the wind, and every sail and movable thing on the after part of the ship was carried away. The forward part of the vessel was untouched by the storm, which passed away in the distance, leaving a train of foam in its wake.

Gulf of Mexico Shrimps.

The shrimps from the coast of the gulf of Mexico are of good size, generally fully three inches in length and frequently exceeding this measurement. They are much larger than those caught on the British coast and the north Atlantic coast of the United States. They are in fine condition the year round and may be caught in the lagoons any season of the year.—London Standard.

His Standard.

"I get tired of hearing about the 'good old times,'" said the cheery modernist. "What's the use of assuming that people aren't in reality as well off as they ever were?"

"Well," replied the man who talks about palmy days, "maybe you're right. But you must admit that we used to get a whole lot more peanuts for a nickel than we do now."—Washington Star.

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How to Prevent Croup.

When the child is subject to attacks of croup, see to it that he eats a light evening meal, as an overloaded stomach may bring on an attack, also watch for the first symptom—hoarseness, and give Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as soon as the child becomes hoarse. Obtainable everywhere.

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Executor's Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed executor of the last will and testament of Isaac C. Bates, deceased, by the County Court for Linn County, Oregon, and that all claims against the estate of said deceased should be presented to the undersigned executor at his office in Scio, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, which is February 15, 1917.

C. C. Bryant, Attorney.
R. Shelton, Executor.

Rank Foolishness.

You occasionally see it stated that colds do not result from cold weather. That is rank foolishness. Were it true colds would be as prevalent in mid-summer as in mid-winter. The microbe that causes colds flourishes in damp, cold weather. To get rid of a cold take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It is effectual and is highly recommended by people who have used it for many years as occasion required, and know its real value. Obtainable everywhere.

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Blossom Time in the Golden State

A friend just back from Southern California says: "The weather was fine, in fact too warm for heavy clothes. Many were in bathing at the beaches. Oranges were ripe in the valleys while the mountains nearby were covered with snow."

With warm, sunny weather it will not be long before the blossoms on the trees will be everywhere announcing that spring is here.

Take a vacation trip now while life is different; where climate surroundings and amusements are out of the ordinary. Spend a *different February*.

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