

VICIOUS SEA SNAKES

THERE ARE FIFTY VARIETIES, ALL OF THEM VENOMOUS.

With the Exception of the Cobra and Bushmaster of Africa, No Serpent on Land Kills So Quickly and Terribly as Do Those of the Ocean.

Fearlessness is one of the most striking characteristics of sea snakes, and it adds greatly to the danger that it is to be apprehended from them, for it often leads them to attack fishermen and swimmers, and even to climb up the anchor chains and through the hawse holes and attack the crew, and as the bite of every one of the fifty known varieties is fatal there is great fear felt of them in the ocean spaces which they inhabit.

These fifty varieties are all classified under the general title of thanatophidia. None of them is able to live anywhere except in ocean water. Every variety and subvariety is as poisonous as the cobra or the bushmaster of Africa. Indeed, with the exception of these two land varieties, there is no snake on land that kills so swiftly and so terribly as do the sea snakes.

Most of the thanatophidia are beautifully colored, even more gorgeous than any of the land snakes, with the possible exception of the coral, crass and carpet snakes. They are banded, striped, speckled and blotched with green, olive, yellow, blue and black and present a most brilliant spectacle as they are seen swimming below the surface of the transparent blue of the Indian ocean.

When they are swimming at the ordinary rate of speed they seem to undulate all over. They do not wobble through the water as the eel does, but their locomotion resembles that of the caterpillar except that it is far more graceful, and as they move and twist the colors play along their sides and backs as they do on the dolphin. When they dash at their prey at full speed they move like an arrow, with their heads and necks thrust straight before them if they are swimming under the surface, or, if they are darting along the top of the water, with their heads elevated just enough to clear the waves. When they are racing along thus their sole means of locomotion is their broad, paddle shaped tail, which is peculiar to all the sea snakes and forms the only striking difference between them and the ordinary land serpent.

This paddle is used like a steamer's screw and has immense power. Bent sideways it will stop the snake immediately as if the creature had anchored suddenly. When dazing or resting over reefs, which are common in the coral banks, snakes hold fast to the rocks or bottom with their broad tails and will often stay in this way for hours in calm weather.

Men may have recovered from the bites of these serpents, but there are certainly none on record. Most of their victims are Malay and other native fishermen, and shore dwellers and physicians rarely get to see them. Statistics are not kept in that part of the world, so it is impossible to ascertain how many are killed in this way each year. Travelers say that there is hardly a fishing village which has not its tale of death to tell.

Scientists once held to the opinion that the deadliest of the bite was due not to the venom, like that of the land snakes, but to some property that caused blood poison, so does the bite of many fishes which are not poisonous in themselves. But this opinion was changed after the medical men on board the British warship Albatross had made careful observations of a sailor who had been bitten. They proved that the snakes were directly poisonous and that they carry fangs charged with venom exactly like the cobra.

The open ocean is the home of the sea snakes. They do not even ascend the rivers. Their favorite haunts are the arms of the sea, which separate the islands of China, India and the south Pacific seas. They don't stay near the shores, but remain at some distance from the land. They are incapable of much movement on land, and after wriggling about and biting savagely they will stay still till they die. They are found in many parts of the world—in the Indian and Pacific oceans, from Cape of Good Hope and Madagascar to the western shores of Panama and from New Zealand to Japan, in the bay of Bengal and the sea around Nicobar, Molucca, Timor and New Guinea.—New York Herald.

Double Flowers.

Nearly all the double flowers of gardens were first found wild. Double buttercups, double primroses, double daisies, double roses and many other things were first discovered among their wild fellows and introduced into the gardens. The florist, however, can produce double flowers. He watches this tendency in nature. If a flower usually has five petals, and he discovers that some of the stamens have somewhat of a petal-like character, the pollen is taken from these flowers and others in a normal condition fertilized with this pollen. The tendency, once started, is then given to the progeny. Almost any species of plant will in this way be capable of producing double flowers. It is surprising that, with this knowledge, more attempts at this line of improvement in ordinary garden flowers are not made.

There is as much difference between genuine patience and sullen endurance as between the smile of love and the malicious gnashing of the teeth.—W. R. F. Tumes.

Hop Pickers.

Those contemplating a sojourn at the hop fields during September can now be registered as pickers at either of our 100 acre yards, at Reesville, Witch Hazel and Rickreal. Fine camping grounds, low railroad fares, store and other conveniences on each farm. When our register is filled no further names be taken. Reserve a place by sending your name and numbers of pickers to, A. J. RAY, 334 Sherlock Bldg., Portland, Ore.

Bulle for service—I keep two bulls at my place for service. Any one wishing the use of same must pay at the time service is rendered. Service is also to be denominated at the per head, Bruno Franz North Belmont. 45-50-1

Damage to California Cherries.

Sacramento, May 26.—The rain-storm which swept over this section Thursday night and yesterday did considerable damage to fruit. Cherries and berries were damaged to the greatest extent.

Alder Anderson, manager of the California Fruit Distributors, says: "The greatest amount of damage will be to cherries and berries. All ripe cherries on the trees are damaged so that they cannot be shipped east, and if the rain continues, as the appearance indicates, the fruit will not be fit for any purpose. The actual loss will be measured by the duration of the storm. If the rain should cease now we would be able to resume packing for eastern shipments within five or six days."

The heaviest crop was of the later varieties, and these, of course, will suffer materially if the rain should continue. One-third of the crop had been picked in some parts of the state, but in the neighborhood of Sae Jose a large cherry center, the amount saved was less. The rain will have the effect of cracking and then rotting the fruit. Cherries are shipped directly by the growers, and this loss will fall upon them.

The rain will have little or no effect upon other varieties, such as peaches, plums or pears. I do not believe the grapes have been affected. Farmers in this valley are alarmed lest the storm end rapidly and be followed by a frost, which would seriously damage the grape crop. It is rarely, however, that a frost is experienced so late in the month. The vines have an outer covering of wax, the extent by the wind, and it is probable that the rain will pack the ground wherever the vineyards have been prepared for summer irrigation. In such cases it will be necessary for re-irrigation of the ground, other than the crop is apt to be light. Extra plowing was necessitated twice last season by late rains.—Fruit Trade Journal.

A New Insect Appears.

A dispatch from Glasgow, Ky., to the Fruit Trade Journal says: "From all over this and adjoining counties comes the complaint of an insect which is destroying the fruit trees. Hardly an apple tree can be found within a radius of fifty miles that is not affected more or less by the plague, and so alarming has the situation become that farmers and fruit growers are at a loss to know what course to pursue. Bunches of leaves can be seen all over the trees, and an examination revealed that the twig several inches down the limb is dead, having the appearance of being scorched. Some farmers have adopted spraying, but as yet no visible results have been obtained. J. T. Laure, who lives near Hodgenville, claims that he has discovered a strange insect on his trees. It is smaller than the head of a pin, and about the color of an orange. Friday afternoon, so he claims, there was no sign of an insect on the tree and on the following morning the tree was dead having been killed during the night by the insects, which covered the tree by the thousands. Other trees standing near by were seemingly not affected by the insects, though the leaves were lost several trees and no hopes now of saving any of his orchard. He says the trees have the appearance of having passed through a fire. Extensive inquiry has failed so far to find anyone who knows anything about the insect."

Unless something can be done, and that at once, to check the ravages of these pests, the present apple and peach crop will be ruined, as well as the trees. Great damage has already been done the crop and trees also.

Cherries Split by Heavy Rains.

The recent rains which have lately visited this section of country have done considerable damage to the cherry crop at Clarkston, Wash., says the Evening Teller. The cherries, particularly the Royal Ann and Bing varieties, are bursting upon a result of the excessive moisture. White Brothers and Crum have discontinued packing in their wholesale house on this side of the river, for a time, on account of the lack of cherries and small fruits in the market.

How to Break up a Cold.

It may be a surprise to many to learn that a severe cold can be completely broken up in one or two days time. The first symptoms of a cold are a dry, loud cough, a profuse watery discharge from the nose, and a thin, white coating on the tongue. When Chamberlain's cough remedy is taken every hour on the first appearance of these symptoms, it counteracts the effect of the cold and restores the system to a healthy condition within a day or two. For sale by Kier and Cass.

Ed. Clarke Goes to The Dalles.

Ed. Clarke, the jeweler, has moved his stock of goods to The Dalles, where he will open a jewelry store. Mr. Clarke is needed at the home of his grandfather, who is in feeble health, and Mr. Clarke thought it best to transfer his business to that town. We are sorry to see Mr. Clarke leave, and are still more sorry to see him obliged to go to a dead town. His brother, G. A., now employed with Jaeger Bros., of Portland, will put in a stock of goods and continue the business here soon.

Very Best Remedy for Bowel Trouble.

Mr. M. F. Burrows, an old and well known resident of Bluffton, Ind., says: "I regard Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy as the very best remedy for bowel trouble. I make this statement after having used the remedy in my family for several years. I am never without it. This remedy is almost sure to be needed before the summer is over. Why not buy it now and be prepared for such an emergency? For sale by Kier and Cass."

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SUMMONS.

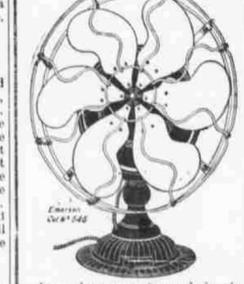
In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Wasco County. Theodore Callagay, plaintiff vs. Anna H. Hooper, defendant. To Anna H. Hooper, defendant: You are hereby commanded to appear in the above entitled court and cause on or before Thursday the 15th day of June, 1906, and answer the complaint filed against you in said court and cause and for want of such answer the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint, to-wit: For a decree dissolving the bonds of matrimony between plaintiff and defendant, granting an absolute divorce to the plaintiff. This summons is published by order of Hon. W. L. Bradshaw, judge of the above entitled court, made and entered on the 13th day of May, 1906. Date of first publication, May 16th, 1906. J. H. Wilson, Attorney for plaintiff.

Notice to Contractors.

Notice is hereby given that the board of directors of the Hood River Irrigation District, in Wasco county, Or., will receive bids for the construction of a lateral ditch for said district, to be constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications thereof. Sealed bids for such work will be received at the office of the board at the residence of J. H. Shoenaker, in said district, until Thursday, June 14, at the hour of 2 o'clock, p. m. Bids will be received for sections of not less than one-half mile, or for the whole amount. The said ditch being a lateral of the main ditch at Hood Point, near the T. W. Colbreath place, and running north to G. A. Hick's place, thence north east to the Geo. Board place. Bids must be accompanied by a certificate check of five per cent of the amount of the bid, or other security. The board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Plans and specifications may be procured by applying to the secretary. J. H. Shoenaker, Secretary. Dated at Hood River, Ore., this 7th day of May, 1906. J. H. Wilson

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