

ANIMALS CAN COUNT.

MORE EXPERT MATHEMATICIANS THAN SAVAGES.

Surprising Instances of Their Knowledge of Figures and Days of the Week—Dogs and Horses the Best.

In a very interesting article in La Revue Rose Erico Mancini, under the somewhat singular title of "Animal Arithmetic," advances some novel ideas regarding the ability of animals to reckon time and to count accurately, says the New York Evening Mail.

Most animals, he says, are able to count beyond four, or to distinguish, except confusedly, any number of persons or objects beyond four. Dogs, especially, on the other hand, especially those that work, can and do really count this number.

For example: In the coal mines of Halcott each horse is required to make 30 trips as a day's work. Some work faster than others, and each one without exception and entirely of his own accord, sets directly to the table after completing the thirtieth trip.

In trails the elephants that act as transports and carry very heavy loads absolutely refuse to work further when the signal indicating the cessation of the day's labor has sounded.

Montaigne relates that at Suse, a seaport of Tunis, the oxen attached to a pulley for drawing water used for irrigation and the like invariably ceased work after the hundredth bucket was drawn.

A certain Mr. Tintotieff was the happy possessor of a dog that was able to calculate with precision. One day, having been fed a large platter of liver, bones, he found 26 left over when his appetite was satisfied. These he proceeded to bury carefully in different places, as all dogs do. The day following he dug up and ate 26, went to sleep, suddenly woke up apparently with something on his mind, hesitated a moment, dug up his twenty-sixth bone, ate it and went to sleep, this time soundly.

Birds count well. They usually know the number of eggs they are hatching. Here is something odd: A half-tamed nightingale was always given three beetles as a sort of dessert. If he received but two he waited impatiently for the third. If the three were given to him he ate them up and flew away without waiting for more.

Monkeys and magpies are, singularly enough, bad mathematicians. Neither can count beyond four, and the men who make it their business to catch them profit by this knowledge. Five or six men march openly toward the animal and then hide themselves. A short time after four men come out into the open and go away. The animals, believing all have gone, are readily caught by those who remain.

Some animals calculate time and distinguish the days of the week with marvelous accuracy. Mancini relates the case of a Protestant minister whose congregation was shocked by a big Newfoundland dog belonging to him that came to the church each Sunday at the usual hour of the ending of the service. If there was any delay he barked loudly, and as soon as he saw his master would gambol about, bark and play, and then accompany him home. To stop this the minister locked him in the house one Sunday, much to the dog's chagrin. The following Saturday the animal disappeared from home, spent the night outside and at the accustomed hour was at the church.

A similar instance is that a dog belonging to the translator of this article. It was greatly terrified by firecrackers and fireworks generally, and invariably ran and hid itself in the cellar the evening of July 3, each year, and could not be induced to come out until the morning of the 5th.

Couldn't See It.

She—Why did you go off and leave me? I was only in the store a minute.
He—I know, dear. But my watch never did keep feminine time.—Cincinnati Tribune.

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Of course, the physical topography of any neighborhood has its influence on the local storms, for the very high winds. The "mountain" and "valley breezes" that are so common during the summer recreation season, are but a special case of the effect of local climate and weather conditions on the wind.

That is what is commonly designated locally as "the mountain breeze," and which, from its origin, is practically in one constant direction, though the intervention of powerful storms may temporarily reverse the customary movement. Vice versa, during the day, the presence of warmer and therefore lighter air near the earth causes a movement of the atmosphere with an upward tendency, creating the so-called valley breezes. In certain favorable situated localities the appearance of the mountain or the valley breeze is as regular as clockwork, the transitional period being marked by a calm.

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