

Notice the Nobs

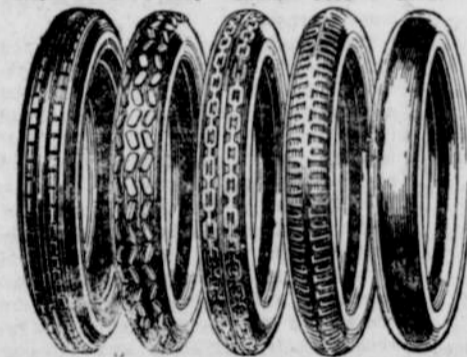
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SURELY POSSESSED OF NERVE

How Apparently Embarrassed Man Thanked Kind-Hearted Girl Who Paid His Fare.

Miss Doris Faithful is a front-row girl and the other day she lived right up to her name. She boarded a pie-belt street car en route to her home, writes the New York York correspondent of the Pittsburgh Dispatch. As she entered the car she became one of the platform audience to an altercation in progress between the conductor and a well-dressed, middle-aged man, who gave every evidence of wealth. The middle-aged one had tendered the conductor a \$10 bill for his fare, and the latter declared that he could not make change. Also the conductor, after some debate, asserted that unless the man could produce a nickel he would be forced to leave the car. This is where Miss Faithful eased her way into the spotlight. Noting the man's discomfiture she politely offered him the loan of his fare. He accepted with protestations of gratitude, and insisted upon having her name and address. When she related her story to her sisters in art they all agreed she had made a financial coup, and that she would surely be rewarded by a handsome gift, and perhaps also be mentioned in the middle-aged one's will. Expectation ran high, therefore, when at the theater in the evening she opened an envelope which had been left for her at the stage door by one whose description corresponded with that of the man she had befriended on the street car. "Some check," she muttered, as with trembling fingers she tore open the envelope. Inside she found a lengthy letter expressing appreciation of "one who had the time and willingness to be courteous to a stranger," and postage stamps to the extent of five cents, in payment of the financial obligation incurred. That was all disappointing enough, but the real blow came in a postscript which read: "I would like to see you as you appear professionally and would appreciate a pass for two any night."

WHERE RAIN SELDOM FALLS

Chilean Provinces a Desert Region, Though the Climate is Healthy Because Free From Germs.

The Chilean provinces of Atacama, Tarapaca and Tacna are in the rainless region, or desert country west of the Andes, and are entirely devoid of vegetation. The winds in all of this region are from the east, and in passing over the elevated perpetual snows of the Andes are stripped of their moisture and arrive on the coast perfectly dry.

The last rain, a slight shower which fell in Antofagasta, in Atacama province, was the first rain which had fallen in 16 years. The last rain which fell in Iquique, in Tarapaca province, was the first in 24 years. With both of these showers a notable phenomenon occurred. The bare hills back of these cities assumed a green tint from a little plant which sprang up almost in a night. The query is: "From where did this plant come?"

The whole of the coast presents a most dismal and discouraging appearance from the sea, but the climate is healthful, being especially adapted to pulmonary and throat troubles from its extreme dryness and freedom from germs. The heat is modified by a local sea breeze, and the sea bathing is most invigorating, as the water is cold.

Welcome Gift.

A learned professor often became so interested in his lecture that when the noon bell rang he kept the class five or ten minutes over the hour. Some of the students decided to give him a gentle hint, and accordingly bought an alarm clock, which they set to go off precisely at noon, and the next time they came in to one of his lectures placed it on the desk, trusting that as he was somewhat absent-minded he would not notice it. When the noon hour struck the alarm clock went off with a crash. Very quietly the professor waited until the alarm was over; then, turning to the class, he said: "Gentlemen, I thank you for this little gift; I had quite forgotten it was my birthday. An alarm clock is something my wife has been wanting for some time. It is a very kindly remembrance on your part!" He then calmly proceeded to finish the demonstration.

The Largest Tree.

The most remarkable tree in the world, perhaps, is the banyan, of India. A tree of this species, on an island in the Nerbudda river, is believed to be the same one that is mentioned by Alexander the Great. The branches send down numerous "aerial" roots that grow down to the soil and form props or additional trunks, until a single tree often covers so large an area that it will shelter thousands of men. At the time of Alexander the Great's visit, one tree covered so extensive an area that it sheltered ten thousand men. Under the protecting shade of these trees the Indian merchants still conduct their markets. The merchants are known as "banians," because they abstained from meat for many centuries, but modern customs have driven out many of the Hindu's traditions.—People's Home Journal.

Unpleasant Subject.

Newrich—Young man, I had to work hard for my money.
Son—Well, did enough people in our set are throwing that up to me without your talking about it.—Boston Transcript.

SEVEN "MISTRESSES OF SEA"

Including Tyre, Only That Number of Nations Have Right to Title of High Honor.

Mark Sullivan, writing in Collier's on "America's Part in the New World—The Heritage of Tyre," quotes another writer as follows, referring to nations that have held the position of the "Mistress of the Seas": "Since the day that man first straddled a floating log and started humanity adventuring by sea, the intervening centuries have seen only seven nations possessed of sufficient genius to dominate the earth's deep waters. During 2,248 years Tyre has had but seven true heirs. Tyre, in her time, was the inspiration of all commerce. Irrespective of nationality, all who trafficked by sea were called 'merchants of Tyre,' and all vessels of burden 'ships of Tyre.' Dynasties lived by grace of Tyre's credit, and died at the calling of her loans. With the passing of Tyre, the position went to Carthage; after Carthage to the Italian cities, Venice, Genoa, Florence and Naples. Italy held her dominance for 700 years, until the Hanseatic League of Cities took the crown of commerce to the Baltic sea. Then Portugal forced herself to the front. That was preceding the discovery of America by Spain. With the aggressiveness of which that discovery was characteristic, Spain took the leadership away from Portugal. Spain held it 200 years and lost it to Holland. Holland held it for some generations and lost it to Great Britain."

PLANT DESERVING OF PRAISE

Witch Hazel Has Many Qualities Which Entitle It to Commendation—Valuable in Medicine.

In an article "On Nature's Trail" in Boys' Life, Dr. Edward S. Bigelow writes of the last flower of the season, the witch hazel, as follows:

"If we should look at the witch hazel as the last flower of the season, to it we would award the booby prize. But if we consider it in connection with its braving of the cold weather in an effort to beautify the woods, we would give it the first prize. No other flower of the year so bravely withstands the cold weather. It begins to bloom in November or even a little earlier, and clings persistently to its twigs until the first of January or even later, sprinkling the shades of the woods with its feathery, dainty golden bloom. It is said also that it has valuable medicinal qualities. It now is one of the ingredients of various well-known extracts of witch hazel. There is also a curious old-time superstition in regard to its uncanny ability as a divining rod. It is said to be able to point out underground deposits of water and of precious ores. That myth probably originated from a misunderstanding or a misconstruing of its name. This is not primarily witch but wych, which had some relation to a salt spring or dairy house, and was sometimes spelled wick."

"Old King Cole."

The first reference to "Old King Cole," the "merry old soul" of the famous nursery rhyme, was made in a book written by Dr. William King, who was born in 1633. It is probable that the song was composed in the seventeenth century, although some investigators think it much older. Halliwell identifies the merry monarch with Cole or Coel, a semi-mythical king of Britain who is supposed to have reigned in the third century. The Scots also have an "Old King Coull," said to have lived in the fifth century. Freeman and other historians say a King Cole ruled Britain in the sixth century. There are many who assert that the reference to the pipe indicates that Old King Cole lived at a period after Raleigh had introduced tobacco into Europe, but this does not necessarily follow, as a pipe might mean a musical instrument.

Superstitions About Shoes.

Many superstitions are connected with shoes. It is thought unlucky to put either shoe on the wrong foot. Because Augustus Caesar was nearly assassinated by a mutineer one day when he put on his left shoe first, a saying has arisen that the right shoe must be put on first unless its owner wishes to court misfortune. Pythagoras, the old Greek sage, told his disciples to put their left foot into their baths first. In Anglo-Saxon marriages the father-in-law gave the bride's shoe to the bridegroom, who, touched her on the head with it to denote his lordly authority.

At one time—in the fourteenth or fifteenth century—people wore the points or beaks of their shoes so long that they tumbled over them when they walked, and were forced to tie them to their knees by laces or chains.

Found a Way Out.

Several times had the priest remonstrated with Pat against his wasteful habit of treating when attending market and made him promise to keep his change in his pocket until he reached home and then hand it over to his wife. A short time afterward the priest, passing through the market place, noticed Pat and some companions leaving a public house. "Now, Pat," he said, "what did you promise me?" "Oh, sure O! couldn't help it yer rivivance," answered Pat. "Sure O! 'st found a hole in me trousers pocket an' wuz afraid O! 'd lose the change afore O! 'd got home!"—London Tatler.

PEST SPREAD BY MOSQUITO

Scientists Have Traced Cause of Disease That Has Long Been Prevalent in the Tropics.

One of the most peculiar of all diseases is filariasis, common in the tropics. In the blood of persons suffering from it there are found innumerable little worms that can be seen only by the aid of a microscope. These are present only at night in the blood that is circulating. At about five o'clock in the afternoon they begin to appear in the blood, having been hidden away in the body until this time, and then they remain in the circulation until about midnight, when they begin to diminish. By eight or nine o'clock in the morning they have all disappeared, and a search of the blood under the microscope after this fails to reveal any. They are now collected in certain large blood vessels deep in the body, especially in the lungs, where they remain hidden until they go out on their next nocturnal excursion.

The parasite is conveyed to human beings by the bite of certain kinds of mosquitoes. The mosquito bites and takes from a man, or from some animal, as the case may be, blood which contains these small worms. In the stomach of the mosquito (the intermediate host) the parasite goes through certain definite changes or metamorphoses, which are just as necessary to its complete life as are the different phases in the lives of butterflies, moths and a great many insects. First it escapes from a skin or shell in which it has existed. Then it bores its way through the wall of the mosquito's stomach and travels forward through the body until it arrives at the base of the bill or proboscis.

ODD BELIEF ABOUT GEESE

Long Ago It Was Universally Thought That They Originated From the Barnacle.

The popular sixteenth century belief that geese originated from the barnacle was not confined to the uneducated, but was shared even by naturalists. John Gerard, in his "Herball (or General Historie of Plantes)" (printed in London in 1597), in giving a description of this marvel, says he only tells "what our eyes have seen and hands have touched." "On the Pile of Foulders," he goes on to say, "are founde certaine shels, wherein is contained a thing in forme like a lace finely woven; one end whereof is fastened unto the iccle of the shell; the other end is made fast unto a rude mass, which in time cometh to the shape of a bird. In short space after it cometh to maturity, and falleth into the sea, where it gathereth feathers and groweth to a foule which the people of Lancashire call by no other name then a tree goose."

He goes on to testify to their abundance by saying that the best of them could be bought for three-pence, and challenges the incredulous to "repaire unto me and I shall satisfie them by the testimonie of good witnesses."

The Pile of Foulders is the small island now known as Piel Island, near Barrow-in-Furness.

Keep Moving Up.

To be worth moving up you must keep up. There are thousands of things in which you must keep up. It's not enough to think well in terms of business. The average business man must watch his habits, dress, speech, and companionship. They are all signboards of his standing. The man above the average takes care of everything that advertises him and his business. He can afford to, let others exploit the freakish and the startling. He takes care that whatever he does or wears tells of the man of judgment and good taste. Call it waste time if you want to. A few years of observation will show the wisdom of his position. So the thing is to mentally and efficiently move up. The visible transfer will come with the bigger pay as soon as you are prepared to handle the job.—Grit.

Hindu Snake Superstition.

The pious Hindu believes the snake to be the reincarnation of some human being, possibly a great philosopher, and he has the assurance that the deities he worships will protect him from these venomous reptiles. Sometimes one sees a Hindu before an altar in a temple, with a serpent in the folds of his cloak. Suddenly he permits the snake to sting him, showing the blood flowing from an undisputed wound. He then takes a black stone from his pocket, rubs it over the bleeding spot, then muttering many incantations he makes passes over his body. A few moments later he assures his audience that the bite, which would have been poisonous otherwise, was made harmless by his prayers and incantations offered to the deity.

Planting Bulbs.

The easiest way to plant bulbs is to use a dibble or a bulb-planter. A dibble is, in its simplest form, only a round stick slightly larger than the bulbs, with one end pointed. Those purchased at the stores usually have a curved handle. A very good dibble can be made from an old garden fork or spade handle by cutting it off about a foot from the end. The handle will be found convenient. You can be sure of planting the bulbs at a uniform depth, if you measure the distance on the dibble and drive a nail into the wood or make a small mark at the right place. Some gardeners paint bands an inch apart on their dibles for convenience.