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SPOTS OF LIFE IN DEAD SEA

Small Fish and Other Living Creatures
Have Been Observed in Deso-
late Waters.

The Dead sea is not quite so desolate as was represented by early writers, who pictured it as utterly without life, with sterile shores, and so pestilential that even birds flying over were liable to fall dead. Though 46 miles in length and more than 9 miles in greatest breadth, it is especially notable as being the greatest depression on the earth, its surface being 1,300 feet lower than that of the Mediterranean. The rainfall is slight, but the great volume of water poured in by the Jordan raises the surface 10 or 15 feet at times, though, with no outlet, this inflow is all evaporated in the dry season. The water has become very dense and bitter, while floating masses of bitumen ejected from the bottom and sulphur deposited from springs along the shore add to the unattractiveness. It is true that neither animal nor vegetable life is to be found in the saltiest parts of the sea, but Dr. W. G. Macterson, in an account to the Royal Geographical society, stated that near the shores, where small brackish streams find entrance, occur small fish, crabs and mosquito larvae. At a spot where he and other travelers saw fish actively swimming, the water was found to contain not less than 33.3 per cent of solids. There are many places along the shore where acres of reeds and many trees flourish, and at such spots birds and other animal life are abundant.

Good Word for Snakes.

"Only 17 of the 111 varieties of snakes in America are poisonous," writes Gayne K. Norton in American Forestry. "None," he asserts, "will attack a human being except in self-defense. All of them destroy rodents that injure crops and carry communicable diseases."

The United States department of agriculture places our annual crop loss due to rodents at over \$500,000,000, or something like \$5 a person.

Just how many more snakes we need in America to save this \$500,000,000 of food no one claims to know, but it may be a good idea for snake haters to permit the wiggling reptiles a longer lease of life—a reprieve, you might say, until all the rodents are gone.

Your livestock represents a large amount of money. Why not protect yourself against loss by insuring in the Hartford Live Stock Insurance Co.
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APART FROM REST OF WORLD

People Dwelling in High Valley of the Indus Are Isolated, but Completely Satisfied.

In the high valley of the Indus, guarding the entrance to mysterious Tibet, lies Leh, the capital of an Indian province, writes Niknah in Chicago Daily News. Leh is not a haven for tourists. Occasionally a few travelers with a passion for adventure and a lack of consideration for the comforts of home, work their way through mountain passes and over rivers, on caravan ponies and primitive rafts, and at last reach Leh.

Usually the journey is taken for the pleasure of unconventional travel and not for the purpose of visiting Leh, for merely to view the town is hardly worth the hardships of the trip. If you are an astronomer, however, you look at the matter differently. The meteorological observatory of Leh is the most elevated in Asia; and your true lover of the stars will not balk at the blinding snow and scorching sun which follow one another in such maddening succession in the Himalayas.

Devout Buddhists find congenial surroundings in Leh, for the neighborhood is filled with lamasseries, as the monasteries of Tibetan Buddhists are called. Over half the men are priests, or "red coats," and spend their days in the worship of Buddha. Nowhere else are there so many prayer wheels endlessly revolving. On these wheels are manuscripts bearing the inscription, "Jewel in the lotus, Amen," written many times. As the wheel turns, the paper unwinds and the prayer is considered said.

The people of this section know little of outside affairs. They live at an altitude of from 11,000 to 16,000 feet above sea level, in the highest populated altitude in the world. If they descend as low as 5,000 feet, the unaccustomed atmosphere causes illness. But they are happy in their isolation, and view complacently the monotonous grandeur of the mountains, which cut them off so effectually from the rest of the world.

Horses in the Philippines.

The horses in the Philippine Islands are ponies containing a mixture of the blood of ponies and small horses from northern China, French-Indo-China and Mexico, with a considerable admixture of Arab blood. There are about 243,000 horses in the islands. In Manila alone about 100 dead horses are collected every month, which are cremated, hides and all, though there is great need of horsehides for razor strops and shoe leather. In the rest of the islands probably 2,500 horsehides are wasted every year because no one knows where to sell them profitably.

PLAN ACTIVE WAR ON PESTS

West Indian Sugar Planters Seek Aid of the Lizard and a Species of Fungus Growth.

Lizard farming and fungus cultivation are means adopted in the West Indies to protect the sugar industry. It has been discovered that the frog-hopper (Thomasia sacharina), so-called on account of its great leaping powers, is the greatest pest of the sugar cane, and that it multiplies by thousands on single plants, sucking the sap from roots and leaves. In the last three or four years two remedies have been developed. F. W. Ulrich, a West Indian entomologist, has demonstrated that lizards devour great quantities of the immature hoppers, and J. B. Rorer, a United States mycologist, has shown that spores of the fungus known as "green muscardine" are peculiarly fatal to the adults. As part of the work to save the cane, war has been begun in Trinidad, where the investigation has been made, against the rapacious mongoses, which have made lizards scarce. In addition, hundreds of lizards are collected in a protective enclosure, and are encouraged to multiply under favoring conditions of sand and burrows, with an abundance of food and water. The fungus is grown in test-tube cabinets, which produce spores that are dusted over the cane fields by special distributing machines.

Anonymity in Literature.

A writer in the Boston Transcript, speaking of a man who had written much for publication but always anonymously, says: "I doubt the wisdom of this on practical grounds; for the public likes to know whose work it is reading; a pseudonym is far better than nothing, and if persisted in is as good in the long run as the right name; but a book by an abstraction, by nobody, generally fails to win the reader's interest, unless a rumor is put about that there is a mystery concerning the authorship, and that the author is a famous man trying a new experiment." He might have added that anonymity is not profitable to the writer, especially if he is capable of good work. He gets no credit with the public for what he does; whereas his name if it accompanied his published writing should become a distinct asset, editors, especially of magazines, being governed to some extent in their acceptances by the value of a name, and persistent use of a name even when attached to matter of trivial quality has become a source of liberal income to many a writer.

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SILLY TO WORRY OVER PAST

Far Better to Get Busy as Possible in Planning Something Worth While in the Future.

The woman who sits around disconsolately bemoaning the fact that what she considers her best years have vanished does not by any means deserve the sympathy she would like to receive.

Pray, who outside the home circle cares what one's years are, whether the bloom has faded from one's cheek or whether one's figure has lost or is losing its youthful lines?

The person who foolishly wastes good time in wishing that he or she could reclaim other days should try to forget self and immediately become busied with some wholesome task.

There are no fountains of perpetual youth to be found at any price in any clime. This fact was demonstrated long ago, and the person who sets out in search of those magic waters will return bitterly disappointed.

Time leaves its traces upon all of us, much as we would like to refute this charge. How senseless then to resort to artificial means, hoping that by so doing we shall eradicate the marks of passing years!

On the other hand, why not concentrate one's best thoughts upon the present, remembering that there are October sunsets more lovely and more brilliant than any that ever paint a June sky!

The woman past her first youth has, if she is blessed with good health plus will power, a work to do, and she should do it. Not one of us ever questions the age of any person who performs some worth-while task. Instead, we applaud the worker, meanwhile hoping earnestly that he or she shall long continue to serve or entertain.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

To Warm Room Evenly.

The temperature of a heated room is several degrees warmer at the ceiling than at the floor. To equalize the temperature, it is necessary for the air to be in circulation. This may be accomplished with an electric fan, but to prevent any unnecessary draughts, the blast from the fan should be confined. As the air must be driven from the floor to the ceiling, place the fan in one corner of the room in such a position that it will drive the air upwards. To keep the air confined, make a cardboard tube about six inches in diameter to carry the air up and across the ceiling to the opposite corner of the room. This will take the cold air from the floor and force it out at the ceiling level. Naturally the air currents are forced from a lower to a higher level, thus equalizing the temperature.—Popular Science Monthly.

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