

CHINESE LADIES' FEET.

A Special Extremity Two Inches in Length the Foot of a Chinaman.

At five years of age the rich Chinaman's daughter has her feet so firmly bound that in the native phrase, the whole is killed. The foot below the instep, explains a writer in the New York Ledger, is pressed into the line with the leg, to add to the height of the little sufferer, while two of the toes are bent under the sole, that its breadth may be only of the least dimensions. The agony of such a process it would be hard to estimate; but it is said to last about six weeks, when, I suppose, the wasting of all the parts, and the cessation of many of their functions, have rendered the whole insensible to pain.

This insensibility to pain is, perhaps, confined to the outer parts, for the chief person belonging to the temple on the Island of Honan stated that his sister suffered much anguish in the sole of the foot, or rather, in its lower and more central parts.

To some inquiries as to whether this practice of destroying the foot was not attended with similar evils in after-life, he said no; and as he was a man of intelligence, his verdict may be relied upon. Among the multitudes who come for health and cure to the hospitals, no one has yet been met with whose ailments could be imputed to this source. This is a curious fact, and such as might well lead us to desire a more intimate acquaintance with the anatomy of this morbid organ, that we might see how nature, under the pressure of so great a calamity, has contrived to maintain the intercourse of the arterial and nervous system, and keep the limb from being materially injured by it.

The development of the muscles which form the calf of the leg being checked, the limb consequently tapers from its socket down to the foot, without any risings or indentations. This is regarded as the perfection of beauty by the Chinese, who say that the knee of the female is not protuberant, like the knee of the male, and is so well covered that she can remain kneeling a long time without inconvenience. It is perhaps less throughout its length than when the foot is allowed to retain its natural size; but whether this is from want of exercise, which ever acts as a stimulus to muscular deformity, or from the lack of nutriment through functional disturbance, I can not take upon me to say; but I suspect the former is the real cause; otherwise the matter would grow from bad to worse, till the whole was destroyed by atrophy.

A foot two inches in length is the ideal of the Chinaman, on which he lavishes the most precious epithets which nature and language can supply. But its beauties are all together ideal; for when stripped of its gay investments, it is a piteous mass of lifeless integument, which resembles the skin of a washerwoman's hand after it has undergone a long maceration in soap and water. The sight of it is well fitted to excite our compassion, not our commendation—a beautiful limb crushed into a heap of deformity.

The thought of seeing a Chinawoman's foot might awaken a smile; but I think I might defy the most merry-hearted to laugh when the loosened bandages disclosed the real reality to be seen. But fancy has played her part so well that this piece of ruined nature, which is seldom seen by men, is treated as the prime essential of a feminine beauty.

"The foot of a Chinese woman," said I to a Chinese acquaintance, "is a very hard some, so that it is a great pity to spoil it." He smiled with much satisfaction at the compliment, but would only allow that it interfered with the amount of his concession in my favor. He was so blessed as not to know the real state of this organ, and therefore his admiration had no alloy.

Custom rendered my eye so familiar to the small foot that a Chinese lady would scarcely seem to be complete without it; but it was my misfortune to see it unmasked, and therefore I could not sympathize with him. To show that there is great privacy about this small foot, I need only mention that the servant when her mistress proceeded to unwind the bandages, blushed and turned her face to the wall.

EFFECTS OF SMOKING.

According to Neal Dow It Dulls a Person's Moral Sense.

General Dow is as strongly opposed to the use of tobacco as he is to liquor drinking, and has carried on a life-long crusade against it. He always has claimed that tobacco dulls the moral sense.

Many years ago, relates the Lewiston (Me.) Journal, before there were any railroads, a man traveling in a stage-coach with Dow one day lighted a cigar.

"I wish you would stop smoking, sir," said Dow.

"Is smoking offensive to you?" the man asked.

"Yes, sir."

"Well, I'll stop as soon as I have finished this cigar."

Without another word Dow suddenly reached forward, pulled the cigar from the man's lips, and threw it into the road.

The man fired up, but looked at the well-known figure of his fellow-passenger, regarded the bright light in his eyes—and cooled off.

"I recall an incident coming down the road, while I was traveling in Europe," said the general. "European railroads did not provide a separate smoking-car then, and I don't know as they do now. A passenger in our car was complacently smoking his cigar."

"You're an Englishman, sir, aren't you?" I said to him.

"Oh, no," said he, briskly, "I'm an American."

"What! you an American and smoking in the presence of ladies?"

"He stopped smoking, but with very poor grace; and he looked as if he would like to eat me."

"He was of a different type from a man whom I met on a steamer in the English channel. I asked him to stop smoking, and he did so, with profuse apologies. I told him that I believed that tobacco dulls the moral sense, but he smiled at the idea."

"You furnish a proof of my theory," said I. "You were smoking when you ought not to have been—and you acknowledged it as soon as I called your attention to it. Tobacco dulls your moral sense."

Plain Prince Bismarck.

Prince Bismarck, whether at Wilhelmstrasse, Varzin or Friedrichsruhe, is a very plain man indeed, and is utterly careless of appearances. His dress is as simple and unadorned as that of a peasant, and his equipage are said to be "plainer and uglier than those of a provincial gentleman never leaving his native city." The Prince has his own way of getting rid of visitors who outstay their welcome. An Ambassador once asked him how he managed to end an interview. "Perfectly easy," answered Bismarck. "My wife knows pretty accurately when people prolong their visit beyond the proper time, and then she sends me a message that I am wanted." He had barely finished speaking when a footman knocked at the door and informed him that the Princess wished to speak to him. The diplomat, blushing and confused, beat a hasty retreat, without stopping for the ordinary formalities of leave-taking.

A COUNTING CHIMPANZEE.

Remarkable Exploits of an Inmate of London's Zoological Garden.

Nature prints an interesting paper read before the Zoological Society of London by Prof. George Romanes, F. R. S., and from it the following extracts are made:

"The female chimpanzee which has now been in the society's menagerie for six years has attracted general notice, not only on account of her peculiar zoological characters, but perhaps still more on account of her high intelligence. This is conspicuous displayed by the remarkable degree in which she is able to understand the meaning of spoken language—a degree which is fully equal to that presented by an infant a few months before emerging from infancy, and therefore higher than that presented by another brute, so far, at least, as I have met with any evidence to show. Nevertheless, the only attempts that she makes by way of vocal responses are three peculiar grunting noises—one indicative of assent or affirmation, another (very closely resembling the first) of dissent or negation, and the third (quite different from the other two) of thanks or recognition of favors. In disposition she is somewhat capricious, though on the whole good-humored, fond of her keepers, and apparently never tired of a kind of bantering play which, off and on, they keep up with her continually."

"A year or two ago it occurred to me that I might try some psychological experiments on the intelligence of this animal. The circumstances in which she is placed, however, did not prove favorable for any thing like systematic instruction. Being constantly exposed to the gaze of a number of people coming and going and having her attention easily distracted by them, the ape was unsuited for the purpose of tuition only during the early hours of the morning before the menagerie is opened to the public, and as a rule, I did not find it convenient to attend at that time. Therefore the results which I am about to describe do not, in my opinion, represent what might fairly have been expected under more favorable conditions; if the chimpanzee could have been kept as a domestic pet for a few months (as I kept the Cobus kindly lent me for the purposes of psychological observation by this society) there can be no doubt that many much more interesting results might have been obtained. Nevertheless, it appears to me that even those which have thus far been obtained are worthy of being placed on record."

"Having enlisted the intelligent co-operation of the keepers, I requested them to ask the ape repeatedly for one straw, two straws or three straws. These she was to pick up and hand out from among the litter in her cage. No constant order was to be observed in making these requests, but, whenever she handed a number not asked for her offer was refused, while, if she gave the proper number, her offer was accepted, and she received a piece of fruit as payment. In this way the ape was eventually taught to associate these three numbers with their names. Lastly, if two straws or three straws were demanded, she was taught to hold one straw or two straws in her mouth until she had picked up the remaining straw, and then to hand the two or three straws together. This piece of instruction was given her in a very simple manner, and she learned it with great rapidity. She was then asked for a number of straws, and she gave the correct number, and she received a piece of fruit as payment. In this way the ape was eventually taught to associate these three numbers with their names. Lastly, if two straws or three straws were demanded, she was taught to hold one straw or two straws in her mouth until she had picked up the remaining straw, and then to hand the two or three straws together. This piece of instruction was given her in a very simple manner, and she learned it with great rapidity. She was then asked for a number of straws, and she gave the correct number, and she received a piece of fruit as payment."

"As soon as the animal understood what was required and had learned to associate these three numbers with their names, she never failed to give the number of straws asked for. Her education was then extended in a similar manner from three to four and from four to five. Here, for reasons to be presently stated, I allowed her education to terminate. But more recently one of the keepers has endeavored to advance her instruction as far as ten. The result, however, is what might have been anticipated. Although she very rarely makes any mistake in handing out one, two, three, four or five straws, according to the number asked for, and although she is usually accurate in handing out as many as six or seven, when the numbers eight, nine or ten are named, the result becomes more and more uncertain, so as to be suggestive of guesswork. It is evident, however, that he understands the words seven, eight, nine and ten to beoken numbers higher than those below them, for if she is asked for any of these numbers (i.e., above six) she always gives some number that is above six and not more than ten; but there is no such constant accuracy displayed in handing out the exact number named as in the case below six. On the whole, then, while there is no doubt that this animal can accurately compute any number of straws up to five, beyond five the accuracy of her computation becomes progressively diminished."

"It is not necessary—indeed it would be unreasonable—to suppose that in this process of 'counting' the ape employs any system of notation. We know from our own experience that there is counting and counting, i.e., distinguishing between low numbers by directly appreciating the difference between two quantities of sensuous perception and distinguishing between numbers of any amount by marking each perception with a separate sign. The extent to which the former kind of computation can be carried in the case of man has been made the subject of a careful research by Prof. Freyer."

Of late his experiments consisted in ascertaining the number of abstract kind of dots on a piece of paper which admit of being simultaneously estimated with accuracy, and it was found that the number admits of being largely increased by practice until, in the case of some persons, it may rise to more than twenty. But of course in the case of a brute it is not to be expected that such a high degree of proficiency even in this non-abstract kind of 'counting' should be attainable. The utmost that could here be expected is that a brute should exhibit some such level of ability as is presented by a young child, or by those savages whose powers of accurate computation do not appear to extend further than numbers which we write as units. It was in view of such considerations that I did not attempt to carry the education of this ape beyond the number five, and the result which has attained subsequent endeavors to teach her numbers as high as ten is, as previously remarked, exactly what might have been anticipated. It may here be added that in the only records with which I am acquainted of animals exhibiting any powers of numerical computation these powers have not extended beyond the number five."

A Valuable Cat's Eye.

The most valuable cat's eye in the world was brought to London recently from Ceylon, the only region besides Madras where cat's eyes are found. It was found by an Indian working-man while he was grading a bank of earth, preparatory to opening a street. He sold it for thirty rupees. After passing through several hands, the big cat's eye was bought by an Indian merchant for 900 rupees. Cutting and polishing reduced its weight from 47.5 carats to 125 carats. It is now insured for 80,000 rupees.

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Grange County Convention.

A Grange Convention composed of three delegates from each of the Grange of Marion county will be held at Salem Grange Hall on Saturday, March 1st, for the purpose of choosing representatives to the Oregon State Grange which convenes at Salem on the 4th Tuesday of May next. W. M. HILLEARY, Deputy.

To the Assessors of the State of Oregon

You are hereby invited to meet at the court house in the city of Salem on Tuesday, the 11th day of March, 1890, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of considering the question of uniform assessments and such other business as may come before the convention. D. P. BURTON, Assessor of Lane County.

A. F. BLACKBERRY, Assessor of Marion county.

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