

INVISIBLE IN SLEEP.

Fish Have Ability to Change from Bright to Pale Hues.

"That fish is asleep," said the attendant. "How do you know," the visitor to the aquarium asked. "But I can't see him by the way."

"That's how I know. He, like many other fish, changes color on going off. Awake he is mottled with brown and dark olive green, a handsome, sombrely splendid object. Asleep he is a pallid gray, with darker wings and tail, a ghost of a fish, practically invisible.

"Many of the weaker fish, especially in the tropics, have this ability to change from a bright to a pale, vague hue when they sleep. Thus they sleep safely. Otherwise their slumber would end between a bigger fish's jaws.

"A wonderful natural dispensation isn't it. Suppose you were a criminal, being pursued hotly, and whenever you grew tired you could throw yourself under a tree and doze off, conscious that in your sleep no one could see you?"—New York Sun.

No Soft Bed for Him.

There is an immensely rich man in New York who never slept on a bed or elderdown, goose feathers, felt, hair or excelsior. When a boy, he slept on a pallet of straw. When a young man his bed was an old-fashioned shuck mattress in the making of which he assisted to the extent of sorting the shucks. In the army (1861-'65) he was glad to sleep on the ground. Later, as a civil engineer, he reposed on a puncheon; and now, rolling in wealth, goes to bed every night on a trundle bed which he bought from his aged "nigger mammy." This affair is not over fourteen inches high, and is corded up with half-inch hemp. There is no mattress, and of course there are no springs. A rag quilt covers the top, another covers his body as he sleeps. His health is superb.—New York Press.

How the Scarecrow Erects Wages.

As he stands in the middle of the flat Suffolk field there is little to show that he is not the ordinary inanimate scarecrow. He stands motionless for five minutes at a time, and only when a bird is tempted by the fresh corn just appearing above the ground does he show any sign of life. But then it is that the scarecrow moves; he hits an old tin can with the rusty handle of a shovel and frightens the birds and makes them fly quickly out of sight. So he spends his day this old bent man and at the end he is paid 18 pence. He is the village scarecrow.—London Daily Mail.

Forest Fires.

There is one feature which does not always enter into expert estimates of the world's timber supplies, and that is the terrible prevalence of destructive forest fires which annually devastate enormous tracts both in the United States and Canada. More destruction is wrought by these terrible outbreaks in a few days, particularly in pine and fir forests, than would be brought about by years of legitimate felling.—Timber Trades' Journal.

New Ice Machine.

An ice-making machine has been patented at Grasse, France. The important feature is a cylinder in which the chemicals are sealed (the latter not requiring renewal and lasting as long as the machine itself), and which revolving in water, produces the ice. It can also produce cold air.

An Ink-Tight Joint.

If the threads in the rubber connection of a fountain pen are worn a little the joint will leak enough to soil the fingers. Dry the threads with a blotter and cover them with melted paraffin. Turn the nozzle into the barrel while the paraffin is still warm and you have an ink-tight joint.

Pleasant Reflection.

The Rev. William R. Huntington of New York, said recently that it was more dangerous to be a railway brakeman than to be a murderer. He proved his assertion with statistics showing that one murderer in twenty-three was hanged, whereas the brakeman in thirty was killed.

The Play and the Cigar.

Henry J. Byron, one of the wisest of English playwrights of a score of years ago, remarked on one occasion: "A play is like a cigar. If it is good, everybody wants a box. If it is bad, all the puffing in the world can't make it go."

An Epitaph.

Beneath this stone lies Mary Green, prime of life she quit this scene; she died the victim of a cough. So soon, too soon, she took 'em off.—Detroit Free Press.

Another Problem.

Why does the general housework refuse to wash windows on a sunny day? Why does she insist on putting off that job until cloudy weather?

At one thousand fathoms below level of the ocean there is a unique creature—just above freezing.

There are silver ingots in the New England which have lain for more than 200 years.

QUEER ANCIENT CUSTOMS.

Touching a Suicide's Hand Was Thought a Cure for Sickness.

In former times it was a common notion that if a sick person, could only touch the hand of a suicide, he or she would be cured.

This superstition was especially common in the west of England; in Cornwall, touching a suicide's hand was said to have once cured a young man who had been afflicted with many tumors from his birth. A similar superstition regarding the touch of executed criminals has been widely prevalent and has often been recorded.

Robert Hunt, in his "Romances of the West of England," says that he once saw a young woman led to the scaffold at Newgate to have a wen touched by the hand of a man who had just been executed.

At Northampton of old the hangman is said to have had a regular fee for according a similar "privilege" to the sufferers from like disorders. Even the coffin of a suicide may have curative value.

There is a Devonshire belief to the effect that, if any one suffering from disease can manage to throw a white handkerchief on such a coffin at the time of its interment, the disease will vanish as the handkerchief decays.

Much superstitious value has been attached to the knots of the ropes used either by a suicide or in the execution of a criminal.

Clean Your Glasses.

You who wear spectacles must understand that you cannot see to advantage through greasy lenses. The common habit is to wipe eye-glasses or spectacles with a silk handkerchief carried in the pocket. The finger tips always exude a delicate oil. This gets on the handkerchief and from the handkerchief goes on to the lenses. Presently there is a smear of grease and people complain of dimness of vision. Drop the handkerchief; get some very fine tissue paper cut into small sections, wipe your glasses with two or three pieces and throw them away.

Shoddy.

Shoddy! The word stands for everything that is mean and contemptible, false, and make-believe. Yet the product known in the world of business as shoddy is one of the most useful inventions of the nineteenth century, and deserves to rank with steam and electricity, anesthetics, the bicycle and other discoveries that have made life worth living, improved our health and lengthened our days.—World's Work.

Newspapers in the U. S.

In 1810, nearly a century ago, there were 35 newspapers in the United States. In 1905 there were 26,422 printing and publishing houses in the country. These represented \$1,000,000,000 of invested capital and turned out products valued at \$496,061,137. The growth for the five years since 1900 doubled the growth of the ten years previous.

Right Handed Men.

According to authorities from 85 to 95 per cent of the men in civilized lands are right-handed and have developed the low right shoulder. This, however, is no new phenomenon, for even the ancient Greek sculptors had noticed it and posed their subjects so as to make them appear more symmetrical.

Peat as Fuel.

There is a strong organization at work in this country developing the use of peat as fuel. It is now utilizing many acres of swamp lands which are being reclaimed for agricultural purposes. The bi-products of the industry are very promising.

A Prosperous Town.

Waycross, Ga., with a population of 9,000, has no poorhouse, nine out of ten of the white population own their homes and 93 per cent of the children attend school. The saloon license has annually for the last 16 years been fixed at \$30,000.

New York City's Banks.

Twenty years ago the fact was made muck of that New York City boasted one hundred banks and trust companies. Today, however, the greater city has no fewer than 212 institutions of this character.

Greatest Heat and Cold.

The greatest heat is never found on the equator, but some 10 degrees to the north, while more severe cold has been registered in Northern Siberia than has been found near the Pole.

Rolling Stones.

The "Rolling Stones" of Australia placed on a fairly smooth surface, will soon roll together in a group. They contain a magnetic ore.

Taken in Marriage.

Men of talent generally fix upon ignorant and stupid women for their wives; while stupid men almost invariably alight upon clever women.

English Predominates.

Two-thirds of all the letters which pass through the postoffices of the world are written by and sent to people who speak English.

Taking into consideration the proportionate weight, the wing of a bird is twenty times stronger than the arm of a man.

HOW SNAKES HUNT.

The Idea That They Exert a Hypnotic Influence Exploded.

Many are the tales told of how snakes of various kinds exert a hypnotic influence over their prey. A naturalist now denies this, as the result of some experiments.

He shut a number of rattlesnakes up in a barn, and then introduced rats and birds for the reptiles to feed upon.

The rats were very restless, but this he puts down as a desire to escape rather than the dread of danger. Sometimes, however, they would run straight into the heaps of straw where the snake lay concealed.

When a rattlesnake wanted to catch a bird it would silently approach its victim, poised for a moment, make a snap like dart, and then in a leisurely manner retire.

In that sudden dart it had ejected its poison into the bird which then fluttered and staggered about in an aimless fashion. Presently its movements became more and more feeble until it died.

Then the snake crept up and bore it off to its lair to be consumed. Hypnotic influence was not calculated exactly, but was found to be absent.

Mr. J. H. H. is following the bride, with the bridegroom is taken back to her father's house after four days, then again she comes back to her husband's house after ten days' stay, and then after a stay of twenty days returns to her father's house for at least six months. This instead of having a short period of honeymoon they make it last almost a year.—Near East.

A Jury of Women.

A Colorado woman ordered a dress and then refused to pay for it on the ground that it did not fit her. The dressmaker brought suit for the recovery of the amount, and the defendant evidently suffering from a momentary attack of mental aberration, demanded a jury of women. Of course, she lost her case.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Mind and Matter.

The power of ideas in producing and dissipating functional troubles is being more and more realized, and thus the treatment of such maladies is being attacked by the psychical route already long trodden deviously by the patent medicine vendor and mesmerist.—Hospital.

Belgian Fowls.

The Belgians have a breed of fowls the feet of which they have shortened in order to lessen their powers of doing damage by scratching in gardens. They have another variety, which have been denuded of tail feathers, that they may have a better chance of escaping from foxes.

A Curious Coincidence.

It is a curious coincidence that Canada's greatest railroad man, Sir William Van Horn, is a native of the United States, and that the greatest railroad builder of the United States, James J. Hill, is a native of the Dominion.

Secrets.

Here is an excellent rule to follow: Don't swap secrets. Never trust anyone with a secret who communicates one to you. If you do you may calculate upon yours being divulged to some other person.

Long Time Underground.

Electric haulage has supplanted animal power in Comstock lode and 12 of the miles which were brought to the surface had not seen daylight for 20 years.

High Priced Peaches.

A commission agent in the Paris fruit markets recently shipped a basket containing 63 selected peaches to London. The price for the lot was \$540, or about \$9 each.

The Telephone.

If all the bell telephones made each year were blended into a single instrument it would be nearly 300 miles high and weigh 4,000 tons.

Phonograph in Schools.

In some Viennese schools a phonograph which repeats speeches as recited by eminent actors has been introduced in order to teach the pupils declamation.

The Sailors Tobacco.

Three hundred tons of tobacco are distributed, annually among the sailors of the British navy. It is sold to them at cost.

Postal Service in the Desert.

A new monthly postal service across the Sahara has just been established. The messengers are mounted on camels.

A Big Sawmill.

Louisiana has a steel sawmill with a capacity of 600,000 feet a day, which is said to be the largest in the country.

When terrified the ostrich will travel 25 miles an hour.

The Philippines have about 200 miles of railroads.

ANTS BUILD SKYSCRAPERS.

Some Remarkable Structures Reared by the Termites.

The white ants or termites are great builders. A naturalist exploring in Somaliland recently came across a cone-shaped mud and clay hill which they had constructed which was eighteen feet in height, while many other were from ten to fifteen feet high.

When one compares the size of these ants with that of men it becomes apparent that these hills are real skyscrapers from the termite viewpoint, if there is any.

While the average man is five and one-half feet high, the ants are only half an inch high. Therefore a 10-foot ant hill is 240 times the size of one of its builders, while such a structure as the Eiffel tower, though rising 984 feet, is only 179 times the height of average man.—Philadelphia Press.

The Rat.

Rats are manifold. They do in a year to stores, granaries, dairies and outbuildings, walls, and drains, and calculate exactly, but are ubiquitous. He is ubiquitous in fields, hedges, farm yards, cellar, sewers, and ships; he is clever in getting out of difficulties, extremely courageous, able to exist on almost any kind of food, and horribly prolific.—Spectator.

Paper Coffins.

Some undertakers, whose customers are poor people, are using coffins made of paper. The coffins are made in all styles of pressed paper pulp, the same as the common paper buckets. When they are varnished and stained they resemble polished wood, and in point of durability it is said they are much better than wooden ones.

Giant Breakwater.

In the construction of the new harbor at San Pedro, Cal., the Government is building a breakwater that extends two miles out into the sea. Piling is first driven, on which a railway trestle was built, and immense quantities of rock are being dumped on both sides of it.

Children for Monkeys.

Evidence has been given by the police that children are frequently hired in order that they may be taken out with organs, that the usual rate of payment for them a sixpence a day and that they have practically supplanted monkeys for the purpose.—Lancet.

Singing Cure.

The suggestion that singing may be used in the fight against pulmonary tuberculosis is an interesting one and is a further instance of the therapeutic value of hygienic measures, which is so large an item in the current professional creed.—Hospital.

Never Saw a Car.

Miss Mary A. Egge, one of Allentown's oldest women, died recently, after having lived more than 50 years within a block of a railroad, and for 15 years close to an electric railway, but without ever having ridden on a steam train or trolley car.

At the Three Ball Sign.

New York City has 238 pawnbrokers, and such is the nature of their business that the law requires that their books shall be open to the Mayor, Criminal Courts, Magistrates and police.

Growth of German Cities.

In 1800 Germany had not a single city of 200,000 inhabitants and only two (Hamburg and Berlin) had over 100,000. To-day there are 41 cities of 100,000.

Mormons in Iowa.

Sixteen Mormon elders from Utah have invaded Iowa to try to start a church in one of the cities and thence to spread the belief over the State.

Some Freight.

The volume of freight sent by water from New York can better be realized when one considers the fact that 1,350 tons are loaded on ships every hour.

Speed of the Falco.

Trained falcons to carry despatches in time of war have been tested in the Russian army. Their speed is four times as rapid as that of carrier pigeons.

In Germany.

In Germany, all workmen, servants and clerks above 16 and getting less than \$500 a year are obliged by law to insure against old age.

Blondes and Brunettes.

Statistics show that though fair haired people are a rule less strong than those who have dark hair, yet the former live longer than the latter.

Marry Young.

Marriage at an early age is frequent in Mexico. Recently a boy of 16 and a girl of 14, were married in the capital.

Every year there are said to be 500 deaths from hunger and destitution in London.

SOUR MILK IS HEALTHY.

The Use and Origin of Curdled Milk Older Than History.

Nothing is older than curdled milk or sour milk, and nothing seems newer than the application which has been made of it.

Civilized people are the only ones to drink milk fresh or boiled, while fermented milk is almost the only kind used outside the pale of civilization. The use and origin of curdled milk are older than history.

Later the Greeks and Romans also recognized the strengthening and tonic effects of sour milk, and they performed veritable cures with the special kind of curdled milk called "schiston."

In our times fermented milk is in common use as a daily diet in Eastern countries. In almost all these countries, besides being used as a food, sour milk has played and still plays a great part in empirical medicine.

Sour milk, aite, being recognized as a wholesome food possessing medicinal properties, has been proclaimed by some people as a remedy for prolonging human life.—Medical Journal.

French Thrift.

From time to time the English workingman has the French peasant's thrift thrown in his face. The French peasant may not be able to find "sermons in stones, books in the running brooks," but he can and does find food in everything. He and a large family could live on what an Englishman in the same position wastes. People, however, seem to forget that the habits of the Englishmen are determined by their climate.—Lally.

Lady Gamblers.

The number of suicides which have taken place lately among business men and speculators in America carries a warning note to women, who, unfortunately, are many of them, bitten with the love of gambling. Nothing is so fatal or insidious as speculating in stocks and shares, and women, from their circumstances, are peculiarly liable to be misled and cheated.—London Graphic.

Restlessness.

Mere restlessness is not a matter for which physicians are often consulted. It is, on the face of it, an unimportant malady, but when it exists in sufficient intensity to form the subject of complaint, and to induce the sufferer to seek advice, it is usually found to be the superficial indication of a grave underlying condition.—Hospital.

The Haddock's Spots.

The haddock has a superstition attached to it. On each side of the shoulders near the gills is a dark spot, fabled to be the impression made by the finger and thumb of St. Peter when he took it up and found the penny in its mouth to pay tribute to Caesar with.

An Expensive Plant.

The ivy plant which established itself in a crevice of the tower of St. John the Baptist church at Yardborough, Lincolnshire, England, undermined the foundation and lifted stones out of place until it cost over \$3,000 to make repairs.

Good Swimmers.

All German soldiers must learn to swim. Some of them are so expert that with their clothing on their heads and carrying guns and ammunition, they can swim several hundred yards.

A Lengthy Lawsuit.

A lawsuit which has been in progress since the year 1430 between the local authorities of Friemar, a suburb of Gotha, and certain mill owners, was amicably settled at Berlin after 478 years of litigation.

About Freckles.

Freckles may be hereditary. Cases of freckles all over the body are mentioned. Food is not supposed to cause them. Sun and wind makes some faces freckle.

Forests of England.

It is difficult in England to arouse an interest in the preservation of forests because of the universal substitution of coal for wood as fuel.

Exhausts the Soil.

The growth of a number of successive crops of the same plant has been lately found not only to exhaust the soil for that plant, but to develop an active poison for it.

American Oak Staves.

Spanish grape growers prefer American oak staves for barrels, claiming that no other wood is so good for the preservation of fruit.

The Lick Telescope.

The great Lick telescope would pick out a star so small that it would require 30,000 of them put together to be visible to the naked eye.

How We Breathe.

Every man breathes or draws in his breath on average of twenty times a minute, or approximately 20,000 times a day.

The art of glove cutting requires great skill, and in France some of the best workmen are paid \$100 a week.

OXEN BUILD THE RAILROADS.

As Well as Do Most of the Farmwork in Eastern Canada.

The ox as a beast of burden has about had his day with the American farmer. He is raised by wholesale, killed by wholesale and distributed through the world as beef, but he doesn't have to work.

Up in eastern Canada, however, he does a big stunt of work before he is eaten. In Nova Scotia, especially, oxen are still used for all sorts of farm work.

They plough the fields, haul the hay and apples and potatoes and cart in the firewood from the forests. They are slow, it is true, but there is time and to spare in those parts.

Of late the ox has been helping to build the railroads in Nova Scotia. He is found to be very useful in grading the roadbed, which calls for a lot of short haul work. The oxen are yoked in pairs and as many pairs can be used tandem as are necessary to any given job. They are patient and untrifling.

Reads Like It's True.

A Stroud farmer on route one has taken out a patent on an electric motor fastened on a cow's back, the electricity being generated by a dynamo attached to the cow's tail, says the Stroud inventor. It strains the milk and hangs up the pail and strainer; a small phonograph accompanies the outfit which yells "So!" when the cow moves; if she kicks a hinged arm catches the milk can and slams her over the head with it.—Lincoln County (Okla.) Journal.

The Cold Bath.

The daily cold bath is an ideal spring tonic as well as one of the most important of all measures for preventing disease. Many a weary seeker after health would do well to throw away drug tonics and try the cold bath, taking care, however, to secure a good reaction. The result in the way of renewed life and energy would be surprising.—Good Health.

Robbery in China.

Armed robbery is still rife in the Kwelin district of China, despite the efforts of the authorities to suppress it. Over four hundred executions of offenders for this crime have taken place in this district alone during the last twelve months.

Fishing Rod Wedding.

All the guests at a wedding at South-end-by-the-Sea, England, brought fishing rods, and the bride and bridegroom, both members of the Scotland Angling Society, passed beneath an arch of fishing rods on leaving the church.

Numerous Friends.

M. Dutuit, who died in Paris in 1902, left a large part of his wealth to all those who could legally claim kinship with him. The court has just rejected the claims of the seven hundred and forty-seventh "friend."

Origin of the Rubberneck.

Women of the ivory coast, of Africa, lengthen their necks by wearing iron rings. Every year they put a new ring around the neck, which they can stretch so far that it is nothing unusual to find it as long as the face.

Dynamite.

Gelatin dynamites are more difficult to explode than the ordinary brands, and require quintuple force caps or double-strength fuses to develop the full force.

A Great Structure.

London has completed the steel structure of its great stadium where the Olympic games are to be held. It is designed to accommodate 70,000 spectators.

Newspapers in China.

The growth of public spirit in China is evidenced by the great number of newspapers which have sprung up since the close of the war with Japan.

The Lantern Fly.

Among the curious insects of the Malay peninsula is one called the lantern fly, which is remarkable for its sudden leaps made without the aid of its wings.

Britain's Fish.

The value of all kinds of fish landed in England and Wales in one year is over \$35,000,000, and the number of men and boys employed over 40,000.

New York's Ferries.

There are 32 lines of ferries plying between Manhattan and nearby shores, carrying a daily average of 268,800 passengers.

A Giant Lobster.

A lobster caught at Castine, Me., measured 37 1/2 inches from tip to tip and weighed minus one claw, 17 1/2 pounds.

Persian Laughter.

In Persia the man who laughs is considered effeminate, but free license is given to female merriment.

After a few years of married life a fellow gets used to being woke up to be asked why he doesn't go to sleep.

The human eyes are rarely of equal power in the same person.