

MONGOLS AND THEIR CURIOUS CUSTOMS.

BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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often smeared with glue, which makes the hair shine and keeps it in place. The girl is very beautiful, and some of the younger girls are by no means bad looking. They fade soon, however, and the older women whom I saw made me think of our Indian squaws. They have no night clothes, and they sleep in their garments which they use during the day.

The chief business of the Tartars is cattle-breeding, and they have large flocks of sheep. These sheep have fat tails, and I saw some tails which weighed, I was told, from thirty to forty pounds. When a sheep is very fat it is sometimes necessary to tie a little stick under his tail in order that it may not impede him in traveling over the ground.

There are no camels in the world like these Mongolian beasts. The camels of Africa and India have short hair like that of a fairly well groomed horse. The climate is warm, and they need little protection. These camels of Mongolia are covered with wool which becomes matted locks down from all parts of their bodies.

fat tails are especially delicious. The Mongols use the fat in making brick-tea soup. They mash up little bricks of tea, and when the water is boiling they put in some of this mutton fat and milk and eat the whole as soup. The bricks in which the tea is made are about ten inches square, seven inches wide and three inches thick. They look like chocolate and are sometimes made in smaller sizes. In addition to this, they eat butter milk, curds and whey. They are very fond of intoxicating liquors, and they have a beer made of mares' milk upon which they keep themselves about half drunk. Their mutton is frozen at the beginning of winter, and the weather is so cold that it will keep until spring. It is said in Tibet that mutton can be kept for years. The air is very dry and very cold, and after a few days the flesh becomes so dry that it can be powdered with the hand and be stored away like flour. The Tibetans use this mutton without cooking, and it is said not to need salt.

over Mongolia, and Tibet is said to be a country of temples. I was within ninety miles of Tibet during my stay in Darjiling, in the Himalaya mountains, and the Tibetans whom I saw both here and in Peking were about the same as the Mongols. I am told that the people of both countries do little but swing prayer wheels, drink whisky and keep themselves dirty. I heard great stories about their monasteries and temples. Some of the Tibetan towns are a mere collection of temples, and some of their monasteries have copper roofs plated with gold. Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, has about 15,000 people, and the most of these are priests. The Chinese build the Tibetans and the Mongolians, and they build them in a sort of dependence on them. The Tibetans and Mongolian priests whom I saw in Tibet were dressed in bright yellow gowns. They were, as a rule, broad-shouldered, thick-nosed, high-check-boned fellows with small twinkling black eyes. They are shrouded in ignorance and superstition and they are intolerant in the extreme.

There are a number of Buddhist bookstores in Peking, and the Chinese capital has one street which is devoted to nothing else but bookstores. There are publishing-houses there which are devoted to the publishing of Buddhist books. The books are cut out on blocks, and are not set up from type, and the editors are, as a rule, and some of the richer priests prefer to have their books written out by hand.

The Mongols have but one wife, though the richer of them often have concubines. It is far different in Tibet, as I learned from the famous traveler, Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop. Mrs. Bishop went to Asia on the same ship with me last year. She expected to travel in Korea, and she had just returned from a trip among the Tibetans. I talked with her for some time about the custom of polygamy, and she said there is a scarcity of women, and the average female has from four to six husbands. It is a man marries, his wife becomes the common property of his brothers, and though he is the chief husband she is the wife of the whole. The women rules the family. She takes charge of the money, and she is practically the governor of the establishment. It is only a very rich man who is able to have a wife to himself, and fathers sell their daughters to the richest bidders. The children are regarded as belonging to the woman and the fathers can lay their claim to them. Mrs. Bishop said that the women seem to be satisfied with the situation, and that they rather enjoy their position in other parts of the world who can have only one husband.

The Mongolians are divided up into tribes, and these are governed from Peking. The Emperor appoints Governors-General, and all of the tributary provinces of China have military governors, and there are Chinese soldiers to enforce their edicts. As a rule, however, the people are oppressed in every possible way. The government is corrupt, and the man who can pay the most can do as he pleases. Manchuria is ruled by military boards. Some parts of Mongolia have their own officials, under the government at Peking. The province of Ili is ruled by a military governor, and in outer Mongolia there is a great lama, much like the one at Tibet, who is a sort of a living Buddha, and who rules the country. He is said to be very rich. His capital is known as Urga, and it is the biggest city in Mongolia. It contains about 30,000 people, and these are priests. The big lama or living Buddha is said to have 150,000 slaves, and he has quite an imposing palace. The people reverence him, and the Chinese rule this part of the country through him. It is much the same in Tibet, and the government is a combination of religious corruption and Chinese despotism. Inner Mongolia has a different government, and in fact the whole of these tributary provinces.

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A MONGOL PRINCESS.



A CAMEL TRAIN.

IN CHILDHOODS REALM



The CALL, believing the babies to be a highly important portion of the community, will devote a department to their interests.



THE YOUNG MELON-EATER.

where those things are most strictly and systematically managed. The peculiar consequence of this state of things is that entirely too large a proportion of the certificates of birth which are handed in to the Health Department give the nationality of the parents as foreign.

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The Health Department of a more hopeful nature than a summary of leprosy cases and a minute description of the same, the little book was taken back to the Health Office and further information asked regarding our annual birth rate. With a kind but pitying glance the official opened the little volume and showed three pages of statistics of births under the page-headings "Mortuary Statistics." Here it was ascertained that during the fiscal year ending June, 1894, there were 3894 births recorded; that for five years ending June, 1894, the annual birth rate had averaged 3015.

But, taken in connection with the average recorded death rate of something over 6000, these figures are not much more agreeable reading than the list of diseases treated at the Almshouse and hospitals during the same period.

The Health Department need not despair, however, in spite of appearances. The trouble is not that there are not a sufficient number of births, presumably, but that the law ordering the reporting of births to the authorities is disregarded and neglected. The deaths are all reported, of necessity, and the statistics regarding marriages are easy to obtain. But as to the births, the officials state that residents, and even physicians, are very remiss and careless in the matter of reporting them. An exception to this must be made in favor of foreigners, especially natives of countries

down at her babe, and in an instant she sprang up, holding the baby on her outstretched hands and shrieking. "Look, look, my baby, my baby!" The child was black and writhing in dreadful convulsions. Of course, all the women, worn and tired as they were, began to scream and to crowd around the mother. "It's dying, it's dying," they said, "and can't somebody bring a doctor?"

And then, all at once, up arose those objectionable male persons. "Ladies, stand back, said one of them, in that grave and steady tone that commands obedience. And one of the men took the baby in a pair of strong and tender arms, while the other opened windows for a draught. Together they stripped off tiny shoes and troublesome garments, together they rubbed that blessed baby with the hot contents of a liquor-flask. "Stand back, ladies, and keep quiet, please," was the only word the heroes spoke. "Certain it is that incredibly soon the baby lay with pink cheek pressed against a cool, fresh pillow, her brow a little damp, but her breathing deep and regular and her expression natural and happy.

In Babyland. A pretty fancy that is quite new is to choose a flower for the baby and embroider a single tiny blossom upon each article of the layette. A forget-me-not, a violet, a pink daisy or a buttercup may be embroidered with wash silks in the natural color of the flower; and the ivory brushes, the powder boxes and other articles that can not be embroidered have the flower inlaid or painted upon it.

Of course every well regulated baby to-day has a book in which the story of its life is recorded, and which ought to be the source of much pleasure in later years. A book of this sort is a charming present, and it may be plain and strong or as elaborate as may be.

One must order for a favorite baby in this city is of white leather, like a bride's book. The corners are of silver and the book is fastened with a silver clasp. Another dainty fashion is to fold a parchment cover on the baby's book and paint upon it a spray of apple blossoms, or of the baby's own flower in water color. Inside upon the blank pages must be written the little stories of the baby's comings and goings, his illnesses and accidents, his cunning listings and all his young achievements. Those clever people who succeed with a camera at home will be sure to paste upon the pages of the book at least one new photograph each month. Baby in the bath, baby in the hammock, his first steps, all the story of his development may be told in pictures and be a joy forever to his mother at the very least. Later Mr. Baby ought to be able to take up the work himself, and if any one of us possessed a library of the scraps of literature we have meant to save, the pictures that have gone astray and all the dotsam and jetsam that should have been gathered into volumes we should be rich indeed. Safety pins are to be had in gold and silver, and tiny ones for the backs of dresses are fastened together with slender gold chains. Little gold studs are strung together in groups of three in the same fashion; and with all these and the pretty bib pins to choose from it is not necessary to give the babies such absurd presents as bracelets and useless finger-rings. A writer in the Bazaar says that the fact is now generally recognized that many children are born with some visual defect which can only be remedied by the use of glasses, and she adds that it is now uncommon sight to see toddlers in Greenaway gowns with those useful articles upon their little faces. Doubtless by this means some trifling defect is often remedied, and by relieving the strain the eyes are saved from irretrievable injury. The babies are the hope of the city and the nation, for they are American citizens every one, and deserve a greeting in this land that shall make it a mother's pride and well worth her while to send a notice to the recording angels and enter it into the world that "unto us a son is born."

yet speak only foreign tongues. Particulars regarding the children are carefully chronicled, of course, in the books where the births are registered, but it would be interesting to know why they are not thought as well worth tabulating for publication as the same details regarding persons who have gone outside the city's gates to return no more.

long journey, together formed a group in an end of the car and were holding a perfect council of war to determine the fate of the offensive individuals, when a matter of real consequence chanced to engage their attention. There were several babies in the car, and they were in sore need of rest and quiet. The jar of the train for so many days, the incessant rumble and roar, had irritated the nerves of the little ones, and all save one of them showed signs of great fatigue and even illness.

This one, a sunny-haired, jolly little daughter of Eve, had endeavored herself to all her fellow-passengers, and her smiles were the only cheery things in sight this last day, when all were eager and impatient for the journey's end.

The child was resting in her mother's arms just now, and she was quiet as ever, while the other children fretted, waiting for rest. All at once the mother looked



Kitty and Her Mistress.

down at her babe, and in an instant she sprang up, holding the baby on her outstretched hands and shrieking. "Look, look, my baby, my baby!" The child was black and writhing in dreadful convulsions. Of course, all the women, worn and tired as they were, began to scream and to crowd around the mother. "It's dying, it's dying," they said, "and can't somebody bring a doctor?"

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