

### WILL CURE SNAKE BITES.

Potassium Permanganate Has Been Found Efficacious Through Subcutaneous Injection.

Nearly 40 years ago Fayer discovered that cobra venom which had been treated with potassium permanganate was harmless. This fact suggested to him the possibility of warding off the effects of the bites of venomous snakes by the subcutaneous injections of potassium permanganate into the tissue around the bite; his experiment, however, failed to fulfill his hopes in this direction.

Within a short time Sir Lauder Brunton has devised an inexpensive instrument which may be readily carried in one's pocket, and which has some of the advantages of the hypodermic syringe. The instrument consists of a small sharp-pointed blade set into a hollow wooden handle and provided with a wooden cap. In the hollow handle is placed a small quantity of crystals of potassium permanganate and the cavity closed with a wooden cap.

The method of treatment is to tie a loose band around the limb between the wound and the trunk and insert a stick and twist the ligature up tight, thereby slackening or stopping the circulation in the wounded member. The region of the bite is then cut open with the knife blade and the crystals of permanganate rubbed in. Dr. Rogers has tested the efficacy of this method of treatment.

In the first place, it was discovered that potassium permanganate not only destroyed the toxicity of cobra venom but also that of the rattlesnake, the colubrine snake, two of the true vipers, and one of the poisonous water snakes of India. Thus every venom tried was rendered harmless by being mixed with the permanganate and the assumption seems justified that this substance destroys the poisonous property of all snake venoms. Experiments on rabbits showed that this animal, which is remarkably sensitive to snake bites, could not be kept alive by means of the permanganate treatment, although the period of life was prolonged. Experiments on cats, which more nearly resemble human beings in the solid nature of their tissues and in their susceptibility of snake poisoning, gave the gratifying result of keeping five out of six cats alive even when given many times the lethal dose of cobra venom, whereas the cats not receiving the potassium permanganate died in every case. The same results were obtained with the venom of one of the vipers.

The one failure in each set of experiments seemed to be due to faulty application of the treatment rather than to the inefficiency of the permanganate. The matter is to be investigated further and there is good ground to hope that many lives may be saved by the use of this simple treatment.

### Pigeon Kidnapers.

New York city has a multitude of "flights" of pigeons. There are few blocks that have not at least one roof devoted to this purpose. The section of territory bounded by Eighteenth and Thirtieth streets and by Eighth and Ninth avenues has over 30 "flights." Their owners may be seen twice a day, at six in the morning and again at five in the evening, stirring the birds to flight. A ten-foot fishing pole, with a black cloth at one end, is often used for starting the birds. Many of the "flights" are used to catch stray pigeons. The "stray," as it is called, joins the flock in their upward flight and is trapped on the descent. On the East side it is considered legitimate to trap a "stray" from a rival fancier's flock.—Country Life in America.

### The Capsules Came Back.

"Some days ago," remarked the druggist, "I put up a prescription calling for quinine in capsules, as the doctor directed. This morning a small boy came in and requested me to refill the prescription and handed me the empty capsules in which to put the medicine."—Chicago Tribune.

### Tooth and Nail.

Mrs. Stubb (reading)—John, the late election reports say there was much "scratching" in Colorado. Mr. Stubb—H'm! That's where the women vote. Does it say anything about the hair-pulling, too? Chicago Daily News.

### IS A COMPROMISE TOWN.

Capital of Australia Is Situated Midway Between Cities of Sydney and Melbourne.

Dalgely, the capital of Australia, is half way between Tumut and Hobala; it is therefore a compromise, preventing the threatened deadlock between the two houses. It is also, roughly, between Sydney and Melbourne, and therefore placates the powerful interests of the two wealthiest states, New South Wales and Victoria. The prospective capital of the commonwealth is hardly large enough even to be called a township, having a population of only a couple of hundred souls. It is right in "the back blocks," quite off the track of interstate traffic, and consists of a few weatherboard, tin-roofed houses. It is not large enough even to exact a postal delivery from the government.

The "town" lies in the southeast angle of New South Wales, near the Victorian border, on the upper reaches of the Snowy river, a tributary of the Murray. The Snowy river flows down the spurs of Mount Kosciusko, and, fed by its snows, the volume of water that flows by Dalgely, beneath bordering willows, is steadier than that of most Australian rivers. The fertility of the district—known as Monaro—is thus assured. The Monaro plains are more than 2,000 feet above the sea level, and so Dalgely always enjoys cool nights, even in the midst of lengthy drought. Kosciusko, the highest point in the whole continent, is only 40 miles distant, and the observatory established there has frequently been snowed up, even in the summer months. The nearest railway station, Cooma, 30 miles off, is the terminus of a branch line from Goulbourn. At Goulbourn Junction the line joins the main route which links up the four eastern capitals—Brisbane (Queensland), Sydney (New South Wales), Melbourne (Victoria) and Adelaide (South Australia).

In Eden, the largest town on the rugged coast south of Sydney, Dalgely possesses an outlet for seaborne trade that is even now largely utilized. Coasting steamers plying from Sydney and Melbourne make Eden a port of call, and the harbor there is so good that Eden was itself a candidate for the coveted honor of becoming the capital.

If a "bush" capital has to be created, the newly chosen site would appear to be as good as any that could have been obtained. In pitching on so small a township the government has, at least, gone on economical lines, for the vested interests to be bought are small. From the point of view of climate and water supply the spot could scarcely be bettered.

### ONE BETTER ALL AROUND.

Candidates Vie with Each Other, But First Comer Has Late Arrival Outdone.

Two candidates for office in Missouri were stumping the northern part of the state, and in one town their appearance was almost simultaneous, relates Collier's Weekly. The candidate last arriving happened to stop at a house for the purpose of getting a drink of water. To the little girl who answered his knock at the door he said when she had given him the desired draught and he had offered her in recompense some candy: "Did the man ahead of me give you anything?"

"Oh, yes, sir," replied the bright girl, "he gave me candy."

"Ah!" exclaimed the candidate, "here's five cents for you. I don't suppose that he gave you any money?"

The youngster laughed merrily. "Yes, he did, too! He gave me ten cents."

Not to be outdone, the candidate gave the little one another nickel, and picking her up in his arms kissed her.

"Did he kiss you, too?" he asked, genially.

"Indeed, he did, sir!" responded the little girl; "and he kissed me, too!"

### March of Science.

"My automobile has the very latest improvements."

"What are they?"

"See this little arrangement? That registers the number of arrests per mile and at the same time drops out the amount of the fine."—Cleveland Leader.

### CALLS AMERICAN GAME BEST

Britisher Thinks We Have Improved on Sport of Football in His Country.

If anybody who is a devotee of Rugby football as played in Great Britain reads the letter of Edward Breck to a daily paper on the subject of American football he will probably be violently irritated, says the London Globe. The writer of the letter has a high opinion of the game which the states call football; indeed, he considers it the one scientific form of the sport. America, he says, never takes up a game without improving it, and she has done this with regard to football. There are, however, two opinions on this matter. If Mr. Breck considers that football is improved by the elimination of the personal equation and the encouragement of brute force to such an extent that the players are obliged to wear a hideous armor, we are not with him. He points triumphantly to the fact that what he calls the one scientifically weak point of the English game, namely, the method of putting the ball in play in the scrimmage, has been "improved" by America. And the improvement is that the half back is not impeded by the other side in passing the ball out, and the forwards do not push and heel to get the ball, which is given to the side in whose possession it was when held or caught. It is typically American to think this an improvement. The great charm of English football is to watch clever forwards heeling and the half back opening up the game before his men can get round to tackle him.

### AUTO HAD PECULIAR SCENT

Parent Traced Eloping Daughter and Prospective Son-in-Law by Sense of Smell.

The pursuing parent in his 80-horse-power car of juggernaut tore around a corner and got lost in a shuffle of heavy motors, says Stray Stories.

"Hist!" said the detective by whom he was accompanied, "we must stop here while I pick up a few clues."

The old man stood up in the tonneau and took a couple of ample sniffs of the heavy air.

"No," he exclaimed, authoritatively, "they have passed through and taken the straight road to the metropolis. Let her loose!" he continued to the chauffeur. "And if a policeman tries to stop us butt him into the next county."

Like a mad thing the great machine tore through the streets and out into the country along the pine-scented roads. When they had eaten up several miles of unappreciative landscape, the eloping lovers were suddenly seen on the skyline, urging their old machine to do its utmost.

"Aha!" gloated the father, clapping the detective on the back with a heavy hand. "You may be a Sherlock Holmes; but there's where I've got you beat. The machine they took with them is the first I ever owned, and I could tell the smell of it among a thousand and follow it like a wolfhound."

### Do Duck Commit Suicide?

Several correspondents have written me touching the question raised in my September notes of wounded ducks committing suicide. Four or five cases have been brought to my attention of wounded ducks that have dived to the bottom and held fast to some object till they were dead. I do not for a moment dispute the fact; I only differ from my correspondents in my interpretation of the fact. My explanation of it is this: The wounded bird has but one impulse, and that is to hide from its enemy. If it were on the shore it would hide in the grass or weeds. In the water it dives, and in its death agony holds to some plant growth at the bottom. In all such cases the bird is no doubt mortally wounded and dies quickly. When it is not wounded unto death it swims under the water, seeks the shore, creeps out very cautiously, and tries to escape in that way. The intent of deliberate suicide is, of course, absurd.—John Burroughs, in *Outing*.

### Thin Air Stops Watch.

A watch taken to the top of Mont Blanc will gain 36 seconds in 24 hours. The thinness of the air, with its increased pressure, makes the poor watch dizzy and leads it to run faster.

### LAST STAND IN BIG WOODS

An Interesting History Is Attached to the Great Lumber Lands of Lower Michigan.

Up in the lower peninsula of Michigan, says the Pilgrim, a big force of men is working the year through in cleaning up the last big tract of pine timber south of the straits, timber that was located more than 50 years ago by the ancestor of the firm that is now making the last stand in the big woods. The lumber industry of Michigan goes back along to the beginning of the nineteenth century, sawmills having been built in 1818, but it was not until after 1830 that the manufacture of pine trees into a merchantable commodity began to assume proportions of note and not until 40 years later was the high tide mark in production reached. The "big woods," which were the scene of active operations during a long period of years and where the pine tree grew in its glory, were located mostly north of a line running east and west from the southerly limits of the Saginaw valley, and the great manufacturing points where the Saginaw river district, the Lake Huron shore on the east and Muskegon, Manistee and the Lake Michigan shore on the west. At the earlier period referred to this region was covered with a dense forest, the solemn stillness of the dark pine woods had not been profaned by the woodman's ax, the hum of the sawmill was yet unheard, the prow of the lumber carrier after its contribution to the commerce of the world had not yet disturbed the waters of the streams that empty into the great lakes, and in view of civilization the broad domain was a solitude, soon, however, to be broken by the hand of progress wielding the ax and the saw. The first sawmill in the Saginaw district was erected in 1832, the machinery that used its saws having been used to propel the Walk in the Water, the first steamer that plowed the waters of Lake Erie. Within ten years mills had been established at points on the West Michigan shore and the great white pine industry was fairly launched, primitive at the outset, yet steadily progressing until the high-water mark of more than four billion feet were manufactured in a single year, and the little sawmill of three million feet capacity in a season evolved into the one capable of converting fifty million feet of pine logs into lumber in a single manufacturing season of about eight months' duration.

### WAS GRATEFUL FOR SALLY.

The Old Mistress of Southern Servant Girl Weeps at Sight of Her Former Helper.

"Sally's old mistress was here to-day, John."

A New York lady imparted the information to her husband upon his return from business, relates the New York Times, adding: "She and her daughter. They are from Virginia."

"They didn't want to take Sally away from us, I hope," replied John. "She is the first really good cook we have had since we commenced keeping house."

"No," answered the wife. "They did not say that they had come for her, though if they had said so I'm sure she would have packed up at once and gone with them. I cannot understand how it is with you southern people and the blacks. When Sally appeared they just fell over her and kissed her and cried over her for very joy at seeing her again."

"I suppose I must have shown surprise, for Sally looked apologetic and explained: 'This is my old mistress. She raised me down in old Virginia.'"

"I told Sally to take a chair and sit down with her old friends. Do you think she did it? Not a bit of it. She only laughed, in a bashful sort of way, and stood up talking to those people the whole time they were here—over an hour."

"They wouldn't have kissed her the next time they saw her, I reckon," said John, "if she had accepted your invitation to be seated."

"Well, it's all very strange and unaccountable to me. I confess I don't understand the relations of the two races in the south, but I must say I am grateful to those Virginians for raising Sally so that she knows how to raise bread and for making a good cook of her for my benefit."

### WHY COUNTRY WAS TAKEN

Expansion Was a Deliberate Scheme of Russia as Compensation for European Checks.

British opinion on the whole seems to take the view that the Russian occupation of Manchuria, and of Port Arthur in particular, was an act of wanton aggression, says a London paper, principally the work of prancing proconsuls and ambitious generals, whose proceedings have been reluctantly indorsed by a government too far removed from them to arrest the execution of their projects, and that now the same government would be only too glad to be quit of the whole entanglement. This we believe to be a common notion in France, but it is deduced from inaccurate premises.

The expansion of Russia in the direction of China has not been the handiwork of adventurous spirits, whose proceedings could have been easily disavowed if unsuccessful. It is, on the contrary, a deliberate and well-thought-of scheme of compensation for checks in Europe. It is recognized by Russian statesmen, if not openly avowed, that projects of development in the near east are not likely to prove remunerative for some time to come, if ever, and that China offers a far more favorable field for their energy. If this be the case, it is easy to account for the immense efforts made and expense incurred in civilizing Manchuria, in building towns and railways, which the last few years have seen.

The British people had indeed spent a great deal less in money and labor in the development of South Africa before the Boer war than Russia had spent in Manchuria before the outbreak of the war with Japan. Why should Russia, then, be any the more ready to retire from Manchuria, even if Kuropatkin be more decisively defeated than he has been at present, than the British were to give up the struggle with Colenso?

### JAIL FOR INDIAN TRUANTS.

Copper-Skinned Hokey-Players Wind Up Careers with Whipping and Lock-Up.

It doesn't pay for an Indian schoolboy to play hokey. Guns are employed to capture the truant, and if caught he is not tanned with a birch, but is hustled to prison like a felon. At least, so we are to believe if this account of one of the tutors at the Chillicothe institute is true, says the Kansas City Journal.

"One party of five Ponca boys that I escorted to Chillicothe last December remained over Sunday and were returning to the reservation ahead of me. Unfortunately, they got on the smoker of the returning train and one of them looked into the coach. Instantly surmised that the others were with him, and soon had three well seated and under guard. The fourth refused to come in and we indulged in a wrestling bout on the platform with the train speeding along at a rate of 40 miles an hour. I soon quit this method of capture, as it might have ended disastrously for both of us. Just as the train pulled into Ponca City my runaway jumped and I after him. He refused to stop and I fired twice, which simply quickened his speed, and I am compelled to remark that with proper training that Indian could easily join the professional class of sprinters. I landed at the Ponca agency long after midnight with the three others, who were imprisoned."

### Clothing Post Office Employees.

Twice a year some 80,000 men and boys scattered from one end of England to the other must be fitted out with new clothes. These are the employees of the post office department, and it is no small task to provide these garments, to say nothing of making sure that each is well fitted. The department uses 287 miles of cloth, 303 miles of lining, besides three or four million buttons and the other multitudinous things which go into the making of a garment. To simplify this work the device of "fitting sizes" has been resorted to, and as a result the men are clothed with automatic precision and with only two per cent. of misfits.

### Barbados Poor.

The poor people of Barbados subsist principally on sugar cane, sweet potatoes and flying fish.

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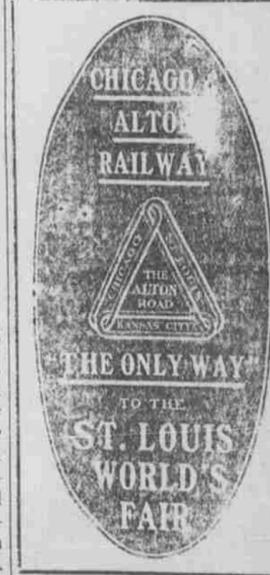
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