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### MARKED CHANGE IN OPINION

Naturalists Claim That Ideas Held by Former Colleagues Were Based on Wrong Conclusions.

Naturalists are not pinning their faith to all the theories of the Darwinians, as they were a few years ago. They are ready to discard any theory as soon as it is demonstrated to be incompatible with facts. One of the latest ideas to be cast into the discard is that every part of a plant or of an animal had a definite value and played a part in securing its survival.

This change in attitude is well illustrated by an article in the Journal of Heredity in which the editor expresses the opinion that the extrafloral nectaries found on cherries, cowpeas and other legumes, castor beans, ferns, etc., "just happen;" they have no particular reason; once there they remain, for they are of no disadvantage.

Nectaries are the glands that secrete nectar. They are found in most flowers, but in many are also found on the leaf stems. Many theories as to their use have been advanced, but long experimentation has proved each of these theories to be erroneous.

"We can hardly avoid the conclusion in many cases," writes the editor, "that they have no vital function and that the plant would probably get along just as well without them," although he admits that it is "dangerous for man to assume that he can understand all the ways of Nature and decide by his own standards whether or not a certain structure is of value to a plant."

### FROM SEVEN TO THIRTEEN

Said to Be Age When Spirit of Recklessness Especially Dominates the Child.

The motor development of the child from the age of seven to thirteen, says Philip Davis in his book "Street Land," is far greater than its mental development.

The thirst for adventure, for discovery, for taking chances is the strongest characteristic of this age.

The greatest risk, the more it satisfies certain children's unconscious calls for acts and daring and courage.

In illustration, Mr. Davis tells of discovering two boys swinging from telephone wires on which they had climbed.

"You may be electrocuted," he warned them.

"That's what we want," one of them answered grandly.

Co-operation on the part of teachers, parents, police and public service companies, the author says, will to some extent solve the social problem presented by this spirit of recklessness among young children.

### The Mirror and the World.

The glass reflects the features of him who looks therein. Smile is returned for smile or tears for tears. With the world, as with the glass, one finds what he brings to it. Is a man suspicious and looking for evil? He will meet it on every hand. Does he seek goodness? He will find it all about him, lurking in unexpected places. The traveler intent on watching for obstacles or enemies misses the wayside flower, the song of the bird, the music of the brook, the smile of a child. If he is on the lookout for evil it seems to meet him and the good is unseen. Are you possessed of fear? You see danger in every shadow; you hear threats in the wind. Smile on the glass. Smile on the world. Hope and fear not. Believe in good and expect good in others and you will find it. Look for sunshine, look for joy, look for love and kindness. Do not miss the good while repining over wrongs, real or fancied. Be yourself what you would see in the mirror. Be yourself what you would find in the world.—Milwaukee Journal.

### Clever Borrowing.

The college stadium is but another instance of the modern adaptation of ancient devices to twentieth century needs. In many things the so-called civilized nations of our day have excelled the ancients of Greece and Rome, and in many other things they have not improved much on what had been accomplished some two thousand years ago. In science, discovery and invention, especially in regard to things material and utilitarian, we have undoubtedly outstripped them; but in poetry, philosophy, painting, sculpture, architecture—in short, in the realm of the arts—we have made but little progress, and that not on particularly original lines. Their works are still serving as our models, although occasionally we do succeed in expanding their ideas to fit our own larger needs, and the modern stadium is a case directly in point. In this instance we have borrowed both the idea and the name.

### Taking to the Woods.

Mrs. Flatbush—"I see Sweden is being urged to pass a law giving women the right to propose marriage."

Mr. Flatbush—"Well, I only hope the woods in Sweden are convenient to the towns."

### Scared.

"I believe that woman is trying to flirt with me. I wish you would tell her I am married."

"I did tell her."  
"What did she say?"  
"She said you looked it."

### IS CALLED DUTCH THACKERAY

Work of Maarten Maartens, Says Eastern Journal, Will Live as Long as "Pendennis."

Holland lost in the death of Joost Marius Willem Van der Poorten Schwartz, known to the world of letters as Maarten Maartens, the one great novelist of whom it had a right to be proud, a writer in the Brooklyn Eagle declares. In some respect he was the leader of the world in novel making. His breadth of sympathy, his keenness of observation, his hatred of sham, his gentle humor, made "God's Fool," "The Sin of Joost Avelingh," "Dorothea," "The Healers" and a dozen other works familiar to readers in every land, and there was a grave loss to the world of letters as well as to his native country in his passing.

"Maarten Maartens" lived much in Paris. He loved to be in the world and of the world. But his work was mostly done in the old castle of Zonnebeul, near Doorn. With Maurice Maeterlinck, the Belgian, he kept the literary art of the "low countries" in the world's van. To Americans his skill was a delight, losing little in translation. He might be called the Dutch Thackeray without much stretching of the imagination. He had much in common with the author of "Vanity Fair," and his works are bound to live as long as "Pendennis" or "Henry Esmond."

### HAS ITS PECULIAR QUALITIES

Guncotton, Powerful Explosive, Will Simply Burn Rapidly When It Is Unconfined.

If someone should place a wad of guncotton on the palm of your hand and threaten to touch it off with a lighted match, you would be frightened. Yet you need not be. Though guncotton is one of the most powerful of ordinary explosives, it would not hurt you.

When dry guncotton is exposed to the air it does not explode when ignited, but burns with great rapidity. So rapidly does the burning take place that if a loose wad of the material be held in the hand and touched with fire, there is a sudden flash, and an instant later not a trace of smoke or a mark on the hand remains to indicate what has taken place. Guncotton does not detonate unless it is confined, as in the barrel of a gun.

When dry, however, guncotton can be made to explode with great violence by being struck sharply between two hard surfaces. Detonation, as such an explosion is called, is quite a different phenomenon from burning. It seems to consist in the instantaneous disintegration of the molecules of the exploding substance. It is as though all the bricks in a great building were in a fraction of a second to be scattered about Greater New York.

### Good Done by Birds.

The department of agriculture informs us that out of 50 species of hawks and owls, only four are actually injurious to crops. Our observer tells us that he has seen with his own eyes an owl of his acquaintance swallow nine field mice, one after another, until the tail of the last remained in evidence. However, in a few hours, this meal having been digested with no apparent effort, the owl was ready for four more mice. The old hawk and his wife will consume a round dozen of mice each during a single day, and in two months' time their youthful brood will devour a similar quantity. It has been stated that a colony of hawks will kill 10,000 rodents in three months' time. We all know what damage mice perpetrate in our grain fields. The farmer may well spare a chicken or two from his henyard in payment for service rendered him by these birds of prey.—Life.

### Try This.

If you will take a pavement that is clear, and walk briskly in the center, you will find that before you have gone 50 yards you have unconsciously veered very much to one side. To make this test accurate you must not use any effort to keep in the center. If you think of something else and endeavor to walk naturally, you will find that you are not able to keep going in a straight line. In the same way a person lost in a wide expanse of level country will describe a complete circle as he keeps walking on and on. The explanation of this lies in the propensity of one foot to walk faster than the other, or to take a longer stride than the other, causing you to veer to one side or the other.

### "Rag-Time."

Ragtime music, "being in no wise serious," is the reverse of depressing. "The African jingles of the present day create an emotional atmosphere of restlessness and excitement which is typically American, and which is opposed to health only so far as our national restlessness and lack of poise tend to make us a people whose national disease is nervous exhaustion."

Roughly speaking, lively music, such as rag-time, is likely to rouse depressed persons from their melancholy; sad and pathetic music will soothe the excitable and hypernervous.

### Offered a Compromise.

Househusband—Yes, I'll give you a good, square meal after you saw some wood.

Trampette—My back's too lame, but, instead, I could lecture on suffrage before your literary society.—Life.

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