

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

MARVELS OF ANIMAL INTELLIGENCE.

The sensation of London about the year 1700 was a "cats' opera," conducted by a Scotch shoemaker named Bisset, who had taught these creatures to play tunes on the dulcimer as an accompaniment to their own squalling. His greatest success, however, was with a pig which was seen for two or three days by many persons of respectability to spell without any apparent direction the names of those in the company; by personal accounts; to point out words thought of by persons present; to tell exactly the hours, minutes, seconds; to distinguish the married from the single, etc. While this learned pig was performing in Dublin an armed ruffian broke into the room, slew the animal with his sword, assaulted Bisset himself, and so unnerved the unfortunate animal trainer that he took to his bed and died within a few days.

A naturalist, who is in charge of a fine museum assured me that he had once seen a horse in a field seize and work with his teeth the handle of a pump in order to water some thirsty cows which were lowing lamentably over the waterless trough! This naturalist had also seen a young half fledge sparrow which had fallen out of the nest helped back by its parents thus: They thrust a straw into the little derelict's beak and, seizing themselves each end of it, they flew up with the nestling above the nest, and then dropped him gently into it!

In a Fifeshire village a sparrow had laid her eggs and half reared her brood in a last year's swallow nest. On the return of the swallows the original owner and buldler tried to take possession of the nest with the help not of its mate only but of a number of other swallows. Their combined efforts to dislodge the sparrow being vain, they hold a council of war, which sentenced the usurper to death. Not only the little band which had tried to storm the nest but the whole flock of swallows fetched building material and in a short time walled up the criminal and her brood to perish miserably.

In a nest in the corner of one of the windows of a house at Strathendry a brood of swallows was half reared when a young sportsman, disappointed in duck shooting, fired at a flock of these birds and shot both the parents of the nestlings. Fearing that the brood would perish of starvation he was about to remove them from the nest and try to rear them in the house, when he was amazed to find the work of mercy taken out of his hands by the rest of the flock of swallows! They took it in turn to feed the orphans till they were full fledged and able to provide for themselves!

COLLECTING FAD THE HEIGHT OF FOLLY.

It seems quite practicable to start a collection in anything under the sun. The fancier has nothing better to do than to take up the newest idea. I have known people to collect pipes, walking sticks, hairpins, cats and matchboxes. The art of collecting stamps not being found difficult enough in its original form, the fancy set to work to make it more so. Some ingenious person discovered that stamps had different numbers of perforations and were characterized by different letters, and finally that even whole blocks of them had varying water marks. Conceive the delight of the brotherhood! It was now possible to enlarge the art. Stamp collectors could surmount hill after hill in their ascent towards the ideal and still find their goal remote and inaccessible.

Once developed to this point there was no holding philately back. Emporiums arose on all hands and hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent annually in the cult.

Coins have in some way a sort of excuse in themselves. And collections of pictures also might be tolerated if collectors hung them on their walls and admired them. But the man who buys the pictures to stack them in his cellars has passed from the dignity of the connoisseur. It

By T. F. O'Connor, M. P.

is the same with prints and jewels. These things are valuable; but they must needs be rendered infinitely costly and deadly uninteresting by the collector. The cult of first editions is a commercial matter in which the credulity and folly of the collector make the market price. It is not sentiment that moves the collector of these things, for he will exchange or sell his boasted Dickens or Scotts for other volumes by other authors which he considers more precious. He is actuated wholly by this abominable mania. Dealers know it and grin in their sleeves, to speak, and batten on him until they, too, become infected by the disease, and so the madness goes round.

The science of collecting is a colossal monument to the folly of human nature. It is a well known fact that collecting dulls the moral faculties. I have known philatelists play the most abominable tricks in what is known as "swaps;" and it is notorious that you cannot trust a china ornament to a china maniac. But the craze for china is more or less decent in comparison with more unworthy manias, such as that developed by tobacco manufacturers in stimulating the collection of gaudy cigarette pictures and demoralizing the youth of the land. It is a pity some one will not collect collectors—and dispose of them.

UNCONSCIOUS ASSIMILATION AND PLAGIARISM.

When two decades and more ago a Chicago clergyman pleaded unconscious assimilation as an answer to an allegation of plagiarism the plea was sneered at as involving an impossibility. Unconscious assimilation, however, is an ordinary mental process. Culture makes ordinary mental processes automatic in like manner as training does walking. For this reason in ordinary life, as well as to a less extent in idiosyncrasy and insanity, much is unconsciously assimilated by the mind that remains without direct association with the daily life of the assimilator.

Conan Doyle has been charged by a St. Louis newspaper correspondent with plagiarism from Poe's "Gold Bug." The allegation is not supported by the citations, which simply show a similarity in thought and expression likely to occur to cryptographers. Similarities, however, exist between Conan Doyle and Walter Scott and between Conan Doyle and Poe which do not admit of this explanation. The smuggler scenes in "Micah Clark" and "Guy Mannering" are so nearly alike as to suggest the influence of Scott on Doyle. The mercenary warrior Saxon of "Micah Clark," moreover, is an undeniable replica of Dugald Dalgetty of "A Legend of Montrose." In his case, and particularly in the case of the smugglers, unconscious assimilation is out of the question, since the surroundings of Saxon and the smugglers are altered and the phraseology is likewise. This shows deliberation inconsistent with unconscious assimilation, more especially as Doyle has repudiated Scott's influence upon him. Such deliberation is still more evident in the instance of Poe's "Purloined Letter" and Doyle's "Scandal in Bohemia." These tales, identical in plot and incident, vary only in the fact that Poe's woman, attacked by a diplomat with a compromising letter, becomes Doyle's king attacked by an actress with a compromising photograph. The methods of Poe's Dupin and Doyle's Sherlock Holmes are identical. The memory of Wycherley, the dramatist, in his later years, was so enfeebled by illness as to play him strange tricks. He would read himself to sleep with Montaigne, Rochefoucauld, and Racine. Next morning the thoughts of these authors would be written down with entire unconsciousness as original. At other times Wycherley would repeat word for word as new his previous compositions. Since Doyle has repudiated the influence of Scott and Poe they cannot be employed to explain his similarities to these authors, which are much greater than those that Master in Chancery Sherman detected between "Cyrano de Bergerac" and the "Merchant Prince of Cornville." Both Rostand's production and the Merchant Prince, however, are based on the career of the historic Cyrano de Bergerac, from whose "Voyage to the Moon" Swift drew much of the satire of "Gulliver's Travels."

ODD WAYS OF MANATEE.

Something About the Rapidly Vanishing American Seacow.

Many hundreds of people have visited the aquarium in the last few months and have seen the manatee, or seacow, but unless one knows something about this rare and curious beast, its round, piglike body paddling around its tank, can have aroused but little interest, says the New York Post.

Years ago these aquatic animals were very abundant in the warm waters of Florida, but they were so relentlessly killed for their flesh and for their oil that they have become very rare indeed, and the fine for killing one is \$500.

The ancestors of these creatures doubtless lived on land, but manatees have so long forsaken terrestrial habits that they are even more changed than seals. The whales probably are derived from the same ancestors as these seacows. There are no external signs of hind limbs in the manatee, but underneath the skin several small, useless bones, close to the vertebrae, are all that is left of the hind legs and feet.

In almost all mammals there are seven bones in the neck, but the manatee has six. The bones of these creatures are very heavy and solid, and, indeed, the ribs used to be carved and sold as ivory. The upper lip is one of the most curious structures of this odd animal. It is very thick and swollen and is split up the center—a harelip in fact. But the manatee makes good use of this fact, and as both sides of the split are roughened with stiff bristles it is an easy matter for this eater of seaweed to reach out without moving its body and to browse on the filaments, the two parts of the lip acting like a pair of forceps.

The male manatee has a strong tusk in each jaw, but in the female, while the tusk extends four or five inches into the skull, it never breaks through the skin, and so is perfectly useless. At a distance, when one of these creatures raises its head above the water, it looks remarkably like a human being, and many stories of mermaids and mermaids are doubtless founded on such a basis.

The method of capture of these unwieldy creatures is interesting. Special nets are made, exactly fitting the stream for which they are intended. After it is thought that the manatees have ascended for the purpose of feeding, the net, the meshes of which are about a foot square, is stretched across the creek. It is fastened firmly at one end and only loosely at the other. When the manatee strikes the net he blunders ahead, thrashes around and the loose end of the net giving way the creature is entangled and is then rolled ashore.

QUEER FRAUD ALLEGED.

Young Mexican Furnished Mexican Peons to Indian School in Kansas.

A young Mexican of many aliases was arrested late Saturday afternoon at the postoffice by Deputy United States Marshal Brighton, charged with one of the queerest frauds that has ever come to the notice of the Federal officers here, says the Los Angeles Times. For a week the officers have been looking for a man who is mentioned in the warrant as Peter Koxas, but who gave the name of Lindsey when arrested, and is also known as Jose Algeron.

This fellow's game was a double-headed proposition. Some time ago he wrote to the superintendent of the government Indian school at Lawrence, Kan., alleging that he had in his own family and among relatives and friends Indian children to the number of forty or fifty whom he wished to send to the school at Lawrence. How he succeeded so successfully in "working" the officials there is yet to be made plain, but, nevertheless, they forwarded transportation here for the alleged young full bloods.

Now for the trick. Mr. Koxas—that's his official name so far—went forth into the highways and the byways and collected a band of between forty and fifty Mexican youths of the poor class. He told them that he would furnish transportation to Kansas to work there for \$3 a day, provided they would pay him \$4 apiece in advance for their jobs and the ride. Of course, he did not send the whole fifty in a bunch—his operations covered some little time.

The "Indian children" began arriving in Lawrence, and one look at them caused a falling of the jaw of the superintendent, for he knew full well a real from a bogus redskin at any age. He would like to see the school fuller, to be sure, as these offers from prolific Californians had made promise that it would be—but no, this stock would never do. He could not look for increased appropriation for his school on the strength of this bunch of peons.

The Kansas officials conveyed their suspicions of fraud to the officials here, and the work of tracing the trafficker in young Mexican boys was begun.

In the meantime Koxas sent similar letters to a government Indian school in Colorado. This superintendent was on the lookout, and wrote decoy letters to Koxas, who was arrested while receiving one of these.

The "rake-off" the Mexican made was the \$4 a head which he collected from the youthful peons for whom he succeeded in securing transportation.

Always Figure in Trade. "Of course, the goods I make are usually taken out in trade," said the facetious manufacturer.

"Indeed? What do you make?" "Pocket books." — Philadelphia Ledger.

There aren't enough adjectives in the English language to enable a girl properly to describe her first beau.

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LANDLUBBERS ON SHIPBOARD.

When the United States monitor Arkansas anchored off Memphis on its trip up the Mississippi River a year ago, a family—father, mother and seven children—went on board the queer steel vessel. The father, the New York Sun says, held two of his boys by the hands, and as they were shown about by one of the apprentice seamen he pointed out objects of interest.

"That thar is the turtle, Johnny," he said, pointing to the big turret with the twelve-inch guns sticking out. "Goodness, paw!" said Johnny. "Jes' look what long front legs it's got!" "They call hit a turtle, Jimmy," "paw" explained, "because it can turn clean over on its back an' go after the enemy all spraddled out. I reckon."

At Paducah, Kentucky, a countryman boarded the Arkansas with a knowing air. He walked round for some time, going over the ship three or four times, but looking mostly at the fighting top. His eyes seemed fascinated by that part of the vessel, and the seamen noticed that he looked expectant, as if he thought something was going to happen there. Finally he turned to one of them.

"Fardner," said he, "when do they call time nex'?"

The sailor did not understand him, and said so.

"Hain't that the fightin' top?" he inquired.

"Yes," replied the sailor.

"Wall," said the Kentuckian, "then hain't you-all goin' to give us a few rounds?"

"What do you mean?" the sailor asked, supposing the visitor wanted them to fire the big guns for him.

"I mean I come on this here steamboat to see a fight," said he, "en I wanted to see hit. I've heard tell a whole lot about the way you fellers fight with the mitts on, an' I want to see hit done. So I reckon as how it's about time you'all was a-givin' us a few rounds."

Then the sailor understood. The visitor thought the fighting top was the ring where the ship's men boxed. "What's this here thing?" asked a boy, pointing to the winch used for hoisting the boats. A seaman told him what it was.

"My stars!" he exclaimed. "Do you lift the enemy's boats clean outen the water so's to get a good aim at 'em?"

"Don't you have any ramrods to them gun-barrels?" was the question of another Kentuckian, as he inspected the big twelve-inch guns.

One of the ship's jokers gravely told him that they pulled out the mainmast when they needed a ramrod, and that the last time they used it the gun went off accidentally and blew the mainmast into Posey County, Indiana, which explained why the ship had no mainmast then.

KEEP IN CONDITION.

Your Physical and Mental Equilibrium Determine Your Success.

The real material with which you build your career is in you. Your own self is your greatest capital. The secret of your future achievement is locked up in your brain, in your nerves, in your muscles, in your ambition, in your determination, and in your ideal. Everything depends upon your physical and mental condition, for that governs your vitality, your vigor, and your ability to do things. The amount of physical and mental force you are able to use in your vocation will measure your ultimate success, and what ever lessens this force, or the effectiveness of your achievement capital, will cut down your usefulness in life and your chances of success. Achievement does not depend so much upon the size of the deposits you have in the bank as upon the amount of capital you have in yourself, the effective ness with which you can use it, and the power you can bring to your vocation. A man who is weakened by ill health, or who has sapped his energy by excessive use of tobacco or alcohol, or in any other way, has small chance for success when pitted against one who is sound and vigorous in every organ and faculty.

Nature is not sentimental or merciful. If you violate her law, you must pay the penalty, though you sit on a throne; king or beggar is all the same with her. You cannot plead weakness or handicap as an excuse for failure. She demands that you be ever at the top of your condition, that you always do your best, and will accept no excuse or apology.

A weakness anywhere mars one's whole career. It will rise up as a ghost all through one's life-work, mor-

tifying, condemning and convicting one of past error. Every indiscretion or vicious indulgence simply opens a leak which drains off success capital.

Of what use is great success capital, of mental and physical equipment, if you are not wise enough to manage it to the best advantage, and to make it last until your success is assured?

It is sad to see a young man try to win high place with a broken-down constitution, or with his faculties half trained, and his success army completely demoralized, his prospects ruined by a shattered physique. The saddest thing of all is that wise living might have made fulfillment of ambition possible, and enriched the world with a noble, well-rounded life.

The great problem, then, which every one has to face, is how to generate energy, how to conserve it, and how to keep oneself always at the top of his condition.—Success.

Philadelphia's Potato Patch.

An adaptation of the Pingree potato patch idea is said to have met with success in Philadelphia. It is in charge of the "superintendent of vacant lot farming." His annual report shows that the utilization of vacant lots by partly disabled and decrepit or by otherwise idle people has brought good returns. Over 3,000 people, including 140 orphan children, were given employment on these vacant lots last year and brought a return of \$200 on each quarter-acre garden at a nominal expense of \$5,000, each dollar invested in instruction, tools and seeds yielding a return of from \$5 to \$7. The usual obstacle in the way of success of this scheme has been to find people who were willing to make use of the opportunities offered.

Pledge Might Have Saved Him. Socrates had just drained the hemlock.

"How foolish I was," he exclaimed. "I should have told them I swore off at New Year's."

Bewailing his thoughtlessness, there was nothing left but to await the result.—New York Tribune.

Dense Population.

Asia contains more than half of the people of the world.

George Washington's reputation for truthfulness may have been due to the fact that he never traded horses.