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THE HORSE CHESTNUT.

A Theory or Two as to the Origin of Its Name.

The horse chestnut tree is well known, and the nuts are dear to boys and sufferers from rheumatism. But the statement was made lately, and it is even found in some encyclopedias, that the name is given on account of its coarseness: "Like a horse, or like that of a horse; hence, coarse and unrefined." The reflection on the horse is an unworthy one, but let that pass. Is not the explanation given in Gerard's Herbal (1597) a more reasonable one? "Called in English horse chestnut, for that the people of the east countries do with the fruit thereof cure their horses of the cough and such like diseases."

There is a long list of plants that have animal pretences—horse, dog, cat, bear, cow, pig, wolf, mouse, rat, toad, frog, dragon, snake, etc. In some instances "the name of an animal prefixed has a totally different significance, denoting size, coarseness and frequently worthless or spuriousness," but names have also originated from the particular uses to which certain plants have been put, and the horse chestnut is an example. The Turks, Arabians, Persians, all believed that these nuts cured horses of coughs, shortness of wind and such other ailments. In England a preparation of the nut was once used for bleaching yarn.

Yet there may be something in the statement of an Englishman, Alfred A. Millward: "The tree possesses a feature which I have often found to be not generally known. It is a very distinctly marked horseshoe, with seven dots corresponding to the nails of the horseshoe, and this appears at the knuckle of the branches, large and small, but more clearly on the latter."—Boston Herald.

OUR OLDEST DOLL.

It Was Brought From England Over Two Centuries Ago.

Long, long ago, when William Penn sailed from England on his second visit to America, what do you think he brought with him on the good ship Canterbury? An English doll. This passenger is the sole survivor of that voyage across the Atlantic, which was made over 200 years ago.

William Penn had a little daughter named Letitia. Letitia heard her father tell wonderful tales of what he saw and heard in Pennsylvania on his first visit to this country, thousands of miles distant from Letitia's home. He often told her about little Miss Rankin, who, living as she did in the wilderness of Pennsylvania (for this was long ago, remember, had no toys at all, not even one rag doll. When Letitia's father was getting ready to again cross the ocean to America his little girl insisted upon sending a doll to that homesome little girl.

So a doll was dressed in a court costume of striped and delicately tinted brocade and velvet. The skirt was held out by enormous hoops, for such was the fashion of the well-dressed ladies of that period. The doll itself is twenty inches high and has the long waist and slender form of the court beauties she left in her native land. Her hair is rolled back from her face, such in the style of today.

This doll now lives in Montgomery county, Maryland, in the strictest seclusion. She is only removed from her careful wrappings when little girls desire the honor of making the acquaintance of the oldest doll in America. Philadelphia Press.

The Extremes.

Somebody has said that the lives of very rich and of the very poor are alike. It is a matter of speculation whether their appetites are also similar, for the very poor woman finds great solace in her cup of tea and drinks quantities of it, so also does the rich woman. Alcoholic stimulants are also favored by the one who finds life monotonous from poverty and she who finds it equally monotonous from wealth. One can have nothing she wants; the other has everything she wants; result with both, an almost unbearable discontent. Philadelphia Telegraph.

Amplified.

Fraud Parent—If you would win my daughter, young man, you must prove to my satisfaction that you have fortitude, patience under discouraging circumstances, strength of character, courage, an indomitable will to succeed and, above all, an ability to bear with misfortune. Have you those qualifications? Sailor—I've known your daughter for some time, sir, and am asking you for her hand. Do you wish other assurances?—New York Times.

AN EVARTS FEE.

Showing How It May Sometimes Pay to Be a Poor Writer.

Not many lawyers write legibly, and the late William M. Everts wrote such an execrable hand that it was very difficult to read it. This caused a mistake at one time which resulted in the eminent lawyer receiving a retainer for ten times the amount he requested. The late William Allen Butler, an eminent member of the New York bar, was counsel for one of the legatees in the celebrated Stokes will case years ago, in which the late Dr. Henry P. Stearns was one of the expert witnesses. Something like \$15,000,000 was involved, and Mr. Butler told his client that he would like an associate in the conduct of the case. He was asked whom he would suggest, and he said he thought Mr. Everts would be the best man owing to his superior knowledge of the law and his great reputation as an advocate. The client agreed, and Mr. Butler was instructed to see if Mr. Everts would come into the case.

Accordingly Mr. Butler wrote to Mr. Everts and invited him to be associated in the case and name his retaining fee. In due time he received a reply which he saw at a glance was in the affirmative and, without stopping to read it further, slipped it into another envelope and mailed it to his client. In a day or two he received a call from Mr. Everts, who inquired what sort of a man his brother lawyer's client was. "Didn't you hear from him after I sent your letter to him?" queried Mr. Butler.

"Yes," replied Mr. Everts, "but he sent me a check for \$25,000, and I only asked him for \$2,500."

It was apparent that Mr. Everts' chirography misled the client. This is the story as told by a lawyer who was familiar with the facts, but it is not known whether Mr. Everts returned the difference of \$22,500 or whether he worked it out.—Hartford Courant.

THE KALLIMA BUTTERFLY.

An Insect That Perfectly Imitates a Dead Tree Leaf.

A moth usually rests with his fore wings outspread over the prominent pattern of his hind wings, says Waldemar B. Kaempfer in the Bookkeepers Magazine. In any other posture he would inevitably meet a swift death. A butterfly, on the contrary, rests usually with his wings uplifted and pressed together. Otherwise, the gaudy upper surface would be as conspicuous as the black ink on this white paper—a signal for attack by relentless and voracious foes. In order to hide himself the butterfly has, therefore, lavished all the resources of his imitative art on the under surface of his wings. By far the most astonishing instance of this kind is afforded by the East Indian Kallima butterfly, the blue upper surface of which is richly and ostentatiously adorned with a stripe of orange, but the under surface of which bears a truly staggering likeness to a leaf, when the wings are drawn together. Here we have an insect that apes not merely the approximate shape and color of a dead leaf, but also the midrib with the delicate veining, the sharp point, and the short stem common to many tropical leaves.

It might be supposed that this imitation of an ordinary object is sufficiently minute to protect the Kallima from its enemies. Self preservation apparently demands not merely a dead leaf simulated, but in touches even more exquisite, for the resemblance has been so carefully carried out that the lighter colored varieties, a dead, light-colored leaf flecked with parasitic growths, stained and spotted to give the appearance of holes eaten by caterpillars.

How Owls Catch Chickens.

When I was a chunk of a boy I shot a horned owl, the spread of whose wings was four and one-half feet, and to the surprise of the boy who had carried it for several miles, the weight was only four pounds. They were rather numerous at that time in that section of the country and were troublesome about carrying off chickens, which mostly roosted in apple trees about the farm buildings. The belief that they could carry away full grown hens was a common one. It was also commonly believed that an owl never picked a chicken off the roost, but alighting on the limb, crowded the chicken off and as it flew toward the ground caught it on the wing.—Forest and Stream.

Bacon and the Fishes.

In "Aubrey's Lives" this quaint story is told of Lord Bacon: "His lordship, being in the garden looking on fishes as they were throwing their nets, asked them what they would take for their catch. They answered so much. His lordship would offer them not more, but so much. They drew up their nets, and in it were only two or three little fishes. He then told them it had been better for them to have taken his offer. They replied they hoped for a better draft, but, said his lordship, 'Hope is a good breakfast, but an ill supper.'"

A Paper House.

"Only think," exclaimed Fenderson, "of the many uses to which paper is now put!"

"I know," replied Bass. "I was at the theater the other night, and I was told it was all paper, and it was a fine, substantial looking structure too."

The Hole in the Hoof.

No man is belittled by having a decent roof over his head, and no bishop is made a saint by living in a hotel.—From "The Bishop's Niece," by George H. Pleasur.

It is really the errors of a man that make him lovable.—Goethe.

WHAT TOTEMISM IS.

Light on an Interesting and Little Understood Subject.

It is interesting to note that totemism is found not only in Alaska, but among the North American Indians, the aborigines of Australia, the Hottentots of Africa and even the hill tribes of India. Totems are also common among the Samoans.

Broadly the totem is the badge of a clan or tribe, but it signifies a great deal more than mere political or social alliance. It is not only a tribal emblem, but also a family sign; not merely a symbol of nationality, but also an expression of religion; not simply a bond of union among primitive peoples, but also a regulator of the marriage laws and of other social institutions. A totem has been defined as "a class of material objects which a savage regards with superstitious respect, believing that there exists between him and every member of the class an intimate and special relation."

Among the Ojibway Indians there are no fewer than twenty-three different totems. Nine of these are quadrupeds, marking out the wolf, the bear, the beaver and other clans, eight are birds, five are fishes and one is the snake.

Some extraordinary superstitions regarding totems prevail in Samoa. Thus it is believed that if a turtle man eats of a turtle he will grow very ill, and the voice of the turtle will be heard in his inside saying: "He ate me. I am killing him." If a banana man uses a banana leaf for a cap he becomes bald. If a butterfly man catches a butterfly it strikes him dead. If a fowl man eats a fowl delirium and death results, and so on, all going to show that the totem has something of the quality of a fetish as well as the significance of a family emblem.

Regarding totemism, it is to be noted that the relation of mutual help and protection includes also the totem itself—that is to say, if a man takes care of his totem he expects the totem to return the compliment. If the totem is a dangerous animal it must not hurt his clansmen. The scorpion men of Senegambia declare that the most deadly scorpions will run over their bodies without hurting them. There is a snake clan in Australia which holds to a similar belief. Among the crocodile clan of the Bushmanias if a man is bitten by a crocodile or even has water splashed on him by one he is expelled from the clan as one esteemed unworthy by the totem.—Housekeeper.

SOME SUPERSTITIONS.

If you want a cat to stay at your home, rub its paw on the stove.

To keep a new dog, measure his tail with a cornstalk and bury the latter under the front step.

If you sing in bed you will cry next day. If you sing before breakfast you will cry before night.

A family must never move except in the light or increase of the moon. This will secure prosperity and increase of possessions.

If a woman is making soap and a man stirs it, all will be well and the soap will be fine, but if a woman comes the soap will spoil in the making.

Looking at a new moon for the first time through obstructions, as through a treetop, foretells misfortune during that moon. To see it over the right shoulder and in a clear space brings good luck.

When Lightning Kills.

"As a rule," says a meteorological expert, "those killed by lightning maintain an appearance of life, staying in the attitude which they had when struck. An English minister named Butler witnessed the following: In the town of Everdon ten harvesters had sought refuge under a hedge during a storm. Lightning struck and killed four, who were left as if petrified. One was found holding in his fingers the snuff which he was about to take. Another had a little dead dog on his knee and had one hand on the animal's head, while holding in the other hand some bread with which he had been feeding it. A third was sitting with his eyes open and his head turned toward the storm."—Chicago Tribune.

A Translator's Blunder.

Jacob Boehme, the "mystic shoemaker," once wrote a pamphlet which he called "Reflections on the Treatise of Isaiah Stiefel." One of Boehme's biographers had never heard of that theologian. But he knew enough German to be aware that "Stiefel" meant "boot," and he was further misled by the fact that Boehme was a cobbler as well as a philosopher, so he made a brilliant shot and spoke of the pamphlet in question as Boehme's "Reflections on the Boots of Isaiah." In this guise it passed into several catalogues.

A Good Thing to Know.

A writer, discussing the lost art of early rising, says, "The proper time to rise is when sleep ends." That's a good thing to learn. Do you know, if we hadn't seen that in a paper we should have gone on believing that the proper time to rise was when you were right in the midst of your soundest sleep. What a blessed thing it is for this blind old world that there are some men in it who know nearly everything!

Wisdom.

The wise man when he contemplates a journey lets his wife pack and then takes her along to repack. If not, he will need a dry goods case to hold the overflow when he turns homeward.—New York Times.

Strenuous Hint.

Husband—Let me see, how long has it been since Uncle John was here? Wife—Oh, it must be several years. He was here the week after I got my last new bonnet.—Detroit/Tribune.

Cured His Mother of Rheumatism.

"My mother has been a sufferer for many years from rheumatism," says W. H. Howard, of Husband, Penn. "At times she was unable to move at all, while at all times walking was painful. I presented her with a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm and after a few applications she decided it was the most wonderful pain reliever she had ever tried, in fact, she is never without it now and is at all times able to walk. An occasional application of Pain Balm keeps away the pain that she formerly was troubled with." For sale by the Coeur d'Alene Drug Company.

Fraud Exposed.

A few counterfeiters have lately been making and trying to sell imitations of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds and other medicines, thereby defrauding the public. This is to warn you to beware of such people, who seek to profit, through stealing the reputation of remedies which have been successfully curing diseases for over 35 years. A sure protection, to you, is our name on the wrapper. Look for it, on all Dr. King's, or Bucklen's remedies, as all others are mere imitations. H. E. BUCKLEN & CO., Chicago, Ill., and Windsor, Canada.

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