AVAN LIFE.

WAYS OF NATIVE CARRIERS IN AFRICA.

y Heavy Loads for Long es and Are Usually Paid Cloth—Troublesome African Insects.

AVAN roads in Africa are row paths for marching in gle file, through long grass t cuts like a knife, or oods; the natives instinw when they are passing rn trees; they slow their e path is always strewn with In the dry season the carrier self with a cotton rag, and pparent comfort in a temnd under conditions which pel the white man to cover th a pair of blankets. A a rule, has a few cobs of pouch of flour of mapira or pped round his waist in his ; he has, besides this, always snuff in an empty cartridge tle gourd; the snuff is comwdered tobacco, the ashes ic leaf, and seeds of the cassut; men, women, and chilssantly take snuff. Only a e smoke, and then not a long t a few violent draws, which le into the lungs till they are ent stupefied. This applies e people in this part of the

f the carriers have a small t on or to lie on at night, or themselves with in case of some have a side of a biscuit handle fixed to it. The tin up at the sides, forming a at dish, and pop corn is made This is the favorite way of y corn. When the corn is is toasted, boiled, or steamed baked in the husk. The carsetimes has little pockets of or paste or baked ants, but te a nabob if he possesses such He will take a load weighpounds; sometimes he carries on his head, with a ring of a pad for his head. He always stick, so that when the load e shoulder he can pass the er the other shoulder and unload, so that the labor is di-

have one or two earthen pots them, and when camp is they gather up firewood and es, and do their cooking, chaff ther, drink much water, and uff till late in the evening. eir chaff, laughter, singing king cease; they have all asleep, which an African can ot any difficulty at all times where. With us it is somerather a hard task to go to especially in this country; for and responsibility keep the f a white man in a state of unss and wakefulness. An average is fifteen miles—more can be but fifteen miles is enough; nfits the man for the next day's y. When it rains, and the nanear long grass or shrubbery, y soon throws a rough roof over ead. The carrier is rationed little cloth to buy food; the rate is one yard a month.

word as to African insects. In ramps the mosquito is a vicious fanatic. He assails you in s without the slightest provocaand remains till killed. He is a observer, and if you are sitting y posture which stretches your ents tightly over your leg, you sharp sting which tells you the uito has noticed the fact. A hole in your mosquito net he es at once, and will struggle gh it a wing and leg at a time, when inside calls to a few friends tells them the way he entered. perch on the barrel of your rifle you are getting a bead on a ty buck, and bite in some painful just as you are about to pull the ger. Other insects annoy you. moths, inquisitive about your , enter your room at full speed, er noisily about your lamp, or try ommit suicide in your soup, leaving the duff of their wings floating on surface. The jigger burrows into r flesh, and starts in to raise a ly in a little white bag beneath surface of your skin.

he proverbial little ant is a terror mankind. The large brown driver marching in swarms of millions, giant ants as leaders and officers, dreadful enemy. They move over ground like a dark-brown ribbon oot wide, devouring every living ng they meet, from a grasshopper a goat, if the beast cannot escape. eir heads are furnished with terrific pers; if you are bitten, and attempt to pull away the insect, you ll find that the head remains in your sh. They will enter your house; matter how well filled your larder s before the visit, it will contain thing but bones afterward. The hite ant does not bite you; his pareniar province is to destroy your ost valuable property—your nest nks, your favorite shoes. In one ght he will so attack a wooden box at when you lift it in the morning e bottom will drop out; he will eat living eucalyptus tree, and when he in the district the poles of your use in a few months' time will umble into dust. At a certain stage his existence he has wings, which sheds at your meal-times into your ishes.

Scorpions and tarantula spiders are nly occasionally met. Large beetles ome from long distances to see you, nd end their journey by striking you n the face. Many insects of smaller aliber settle on the back of your neck, nd when you try to brush them off reak down your back. Small saw-

your right eye when your left one is closed and you are trying to get a bead on a buck.—Century.

Oiling the Sea.

One of the most curious sights at sea is that of an oil-bound ship.

Every up-to-date ship carries oil tanks, the quantity varying with the size of the vessel. For instance, a steamer of 150 tons burden carries on an average sixty gallons of oil. This oil is the refuse discarded by the oil-refining factories, and often consists of a mixture of whale oil, petroleum and vegetable oil. It costs about twopence a gallon, and a large-sized vessel can be well supplied for twenty shillings.

The oil is stowed in spacious zinc tanks, arranged in the hold of the ship to act as ballast. Each tank contains fifty gallons of oil, and an ingenious mechanical tap arrangement connects the tank with the outside of the vessel.

If a dangerous gale arises, and the ship becomes unmanageable and likely to founder, the sluices are opened and twenty gallons or more of the oil is allowed to escape into the sea.

The effect is instantaneous. However stormy the sea may be, the vessel lies in a gently heaving millpond. There is no further danger of foundering, and the oil moves along with the vessel for some time, often half an hour, after which it breaks up and disperses. The ship must slacken speed a little, and more oil is let out from the tanks. Enormous waves may bear down on the ship, but on approaching the magic oiled circle they seem to melt away and pass harmlessly beneath the vessel.

Sailing vessels are not so often furnished with oil tanks as steamers. It is estimated, however, that over 200 vessels have been saved from shipwreck by means of the oil tanks since they were introduced a few years ago. It is only in cases of absolute peril that the tanks are resorted to.—London Answers.

Electric Sunstroke.

One of the most extraordinary modern diseases is a peculiar affection, most aptly termed electric sunstroke, which not infrequently befalls workmen employed in melting metals by means of electricity. It appears from observations made at the great steel and iron works at Creuzot, France, that the intense voltaic arc between the carbon and the metal to be melted emits rays which, even at a distance of ten meters, produce a painful, hot, pricking sensation, like that of a burn, on such uncovered portions of the body as the throat, face, and, more especially, forehead.

The skin of the parts affected becomes either copper-colored or assumes a bronze hue; the eyes, in spite of black glasses, are so intensely dazzled as to be useless for some minutes, after which xanthopsia (yellow vision) sets in, everything appearing saffron colored, the conjunctive are inflamed, and there is a gritty feeling as of sand under the eyelids. There is frequently great pain, accompanied often by sleeplessness, and in some instances, fever, says a writer in Pearson's Weekly.

After a few days these symptoms subside, the skin of the affected parts peels, and the patient is restored to health.

Now, the remarkable thing about all this is that very little heat is radiated from the electric arc used; all the trouble arises from the light rays, and though it has not yet been experimentally proved, there can be little doubt that the blue and violet, i. e., the chemical, rays are to blame.

The Number of Useful Plants.

Of late years there has been a wonderful addition to the number of known useful plants, the total being now put at about 15,000 by the botanists. Among the lot are 5000 roughly classed as "economic and food plants." The above includes 1100 edible fruits and berries and 300 edible seeds. Fifty are reckoned among the cereals and 40 as "uncultivated edible graminaceous seeds." Four hundred and twenty are classed as "vegetables and salads," and 260 are listed among the "roots tubers."

There are 37 of the onion species, 40 palms, 32 varieties of arrowroot, 39 plants from which sugar may be extracted in paying quantities and 40 others reckoned among the "saleps," whatever that may be. Vinous drinks are obtained from 200 plants; aromatics from 266. There are 50 substitutes for coffee and 129 for tea. Tannin is present in 140 plants and caoutchouc (India rubber) in 96. Gutta-percha is found in but 7, while "rosin and balsamic" gums are yielded by not less than 389. There are 10 wax trees and plants and 330 which yield "grease and essential oils." Eighty-eight different plants contain potash, soda and iodine, and 650 are of use to the dyer and ink man. Upwards of 300 of them have fibers that are of use to the weaver and 44 are used in making roofing preparations and 740 are used in miscellaneous building operations. Out of all the plants known to belong to the vegetable kingdom only 615 are in any degree poisonous.

The "Old-Time People."

In Liberia the chimpanzees are called by the natives "old-time people." Professor O. F. Cook states that they dig land crabs out of their burrows, and crack them on stones, and are also said to crack nuts between stones, "quite man fashion," and to grasp the python or boa by the neck and bruise its head with a stone. In a footnote in Science it is added that Major Battersby mentions that in the Barbadoes a capuchin monkey captures crabs in a similar way. "His method is to knock it about with its paw by quick pats until it is sufficiently dazed to give him a chance of ...ing its claw with a large stone."

WISE WORDS.

A man's conduct is an unspoken sermon.

The smaller the soul the bigger a dollar looks.

Some very good sawlogs have big knots on them.

Life was given to enjoy, not to drag out in complaints.

An enemy is a person who applauds you when you fall.

Friendship, like phosphorous, gives its light in the dark.

The man who makes his own god always has a little one.

That which is bitter to endure may be sweet to remember.

If you will not hear reason, she will surely rap your knuckles.

Pride, perceiving humility honorable, often borrows her cloak.

It isn't what a man owes, but what he pays that keeps him poor.

In trying to keep all he gets, a stingy man steals from himself.

Like a great many thieves, "Time steals on" and cannot be arrested.

When the office seeks the man it is seldom his fault if it does not find him.

There is not so much failure to be charged to "poor luck" as to bad management.

Be careful where you step and the man who follows you will not stumble so much.

Nothing pleases a man so well as to be asked if his eldest daughter isn't his wife.

The slander of some people is as great a recommendation as the praise of others.

A man who puts off his enjoyment too long will find it mislaid by the time he gets to it.—The South West.

A Living Bell.

One of the strangest birds of the South American forests is the bluebird, or convent bird, as it is called by the Spanish-speaking inhabitants.

It is a small bird, about the size of a blue jay, or a little larger than a robin. It is as white as snow and is quite rare, being found only in the most inaccessible parts of the country. But the most remarkable thing about this bird is what he takes his name from—his power to imitate the toiling of a bell. This he does to perfection.

From the top of the bird's bill there grows a curious, fleshy protuberance, similar to that of a turkey gobbler. Unlike the turkey's, however, this is hollow and sparsely covered with short hairs. The tube, which is black, connects with the interior of the throat, and it is through it that the bird makes the sonorous sound from which it takes its name. When in use the tube stands upright from the bill, and, as it is an inch to two inches in length, it has the appearance of a horn. From this the bird takes another of his many names—the "rhinocerous bird."

Paddling quietly along a South American river in a bark canoe, with only an Indian guide for company, the traveler is surprised to suddenly hear a bell ringing, apparently close at hand. Wondering at what a church can be doing in such a place, he turns to his guide for an explanation, but the guide only smiles and nods. But on proceeding he comes on the author of it. Seated on the topmost branch of an overhanging tree, the bell bird is tolling out a te deum for the dying day.—New York Journal.

New and Novel Patents.

An adjustable stepladder, which can be extended from four to eight feet in height.

A self-acting door brace, which prevents the opening of a door, though the lock should be picked.

A draft and hold-back attachment for hitching horses to buggies without the use of tugs or braces.

A self-dumping wagon which hinges in the middle and dumps the load downward from the center.

A scenic theatre apparatus for producing artificial eclipses of the sun or moon by projection a screen.

An improved reckoning scale for grocers or other use, which indicates price or amount of cost of articles as weighed.

Improved method of hanging window casing by clamps, and thus obviates the necessity of driving nails or screws.

A marine torpedo with a strong electro magnet mounted within the shell so that it will be attracted to and held against the hull of an iron or steel-plated ship or vessel.

A truck platform for handling heavy articles, wherein rows of small wheels or casters are imbedded in the truck platform, projecting sufficiently to make a continuous rolling surface for heavy boxes or castings.

A surgical instrument for removing obstructions from the throats of animals, consisting of a flexible sheath, through which runs a rod—also flexible—with a double "worm" on the lower end, which engages the obstruction and by which it may be withdrawn or broken up.—New Ideas.

An Original Game.

The prevalence of a very original game among the people of India has called for the interference of the British Government. The game consists in betting on the quantity of water that falls during a rain shower. The houses in India, as a rule, are provided with reservoirs, and Hindoos of sporting proclivities gather around them on the approach of a storm and recklessly lay bets as to how much time will elapse before they are filled with water. So much misery has resulted from this bizarre form of dissipation that the English officials in India have determined to prohibit the game as far as pos...

BUDGET OF FUN.

HUMOROUS SKETCHES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

When Lovely Woman, Etc.—Summer Peace—Authoritative—It Depends—Her Pet Name—Etc., Etc.

When lovely woman guides a wheel,
Or points, perchance, the light cane
'If thou dost value life, edge near
What she's supposed to steer into.

AUTHORITATIVE.

Stranger—"What's the quickest way to get to the Emergency Hospital?"

Policeman—"Try to cross Broadway alone."—New York Truth.

SUMMER PEACE.

"Say, Cotherstone, don't you ever take a rest?"

"Yes, my daughter always goes away in June to a musical convention."—Chicago Record.

IT DEPENDS.

"Which would you say—that a young lady has a pug nose, or that her nose is retrousse?"

"How much is her father worth?"—Detroit Free Press.

AN OBLIGING BORROWER.

"I say, Trivvet, can you lend me fifty dollars for a few days?"

"I have only one dollar about me, Dicer."

"Well, I'll try to make that do."

A DIFFERENCE NOTED.

"I think all children should learn early to say 'No.'"

"Yes, boys should, of course; but with girls there are times when they should be prepared to say 'Yes.'"—Chicago Record.

DIFFERENT.

"No, I'm not well enough to run sewing machine."

"What do you intend doing this afternoon?"

"I believe I'll take a ten-mile run on my bicycle."—San Francisco Wave.

WITH A RESERVATION.

He—"Will you marry me?"

She—"No; I'm not a clergyman."

He—"Well, will you permit a clergyman to marry us?"

She—"Yes. You to somebody else, and me to—well—somebody else."—Harper's Bazar.

HER PET NAME.

Judge—"What is your name?"

Young Wife—"Carolina Augusta Emma."

Judge—"And how are you generally called?"

Young Wife (bashfully)—"My sweet ducky!"—Tit Bits.

ON HISTORIC GROUND.

Husband—"Are you aware, my dear, that on this grassy spot began a war that lasted ten years?"

Wife—"Why, John, it was here that you proposed to me."

Husband—"Exactly; just ten years ago."—Rochester Times.

BIBLICAL HISTORY.

Teacher—"Who was the wisest man?"

Tommy—"Noah."

"Noah?"

"Yes'm. He was the only man who knew enough to come in when it rained."—Indianapolis Journal.

CALCULATING.

"Little girl," said the lady who was passing, "doesn't it worry your mamma dreadfully to hear you crying so hard?"

"Course it does!" howled the little girl. "That's why I'm a-cryin'! Boo-hoo! Boo-hoo-hoo!"—Chicago Tribune.

THE TERM JUSTIFIED.

Miss Keedick—"Did you know that the wealthy Ruth Stopaclock was married?"

Miss Fosdick—"No; is she?"

Miss Keedick—"Yes."

Miss Fosdick—"Now I know why people call it the almighty dollar."—Judge.

DANGEROUS.

First Wheel-Man—"I always get rattled when I see a woman crossing the street ahead of me."

Second Wheel-Men—"So do I. They have so many pins in their clothes that if a fellow collides with them he is almost sure to puncture a tire."—Truth.

ALREADY DIGESTED.

Detective—"We have reason to believe that he swallowed the stolen diamond half an hour ago."

Chief of Bureau—"Ha! he cannot defeat us so easily! Cathode him at once."

Detective—"It is useless; he boards at a cheap restaurant."—Detroit News.

A Curiosity in Photography.

A curious experiment in photography was recently made in England. A man was made to look steadily at a postage stamp on a black card for a minute; the room was then darkened, a sensitive photographic plate put in place of the card, and the man looked at it steady for twenty minutes. The plate was developed and showed two distinct images of the stamp. Ingles Rogers, one of the three witnesses of this fact, is unable to decide whether the photograph is one of the image projected on the man's retina or whether it is a case of thought transference.

POPUAR SCIENCE.

Of the 2901 cases of smallpox in Austria during 1895 no less than 2366 occurred in Galicia.

They say there are about 200 different shapes and varieties of tooth-pulling forceps on the market.

Professor Hadden claims that Stephenson obtained his idea of the railway coach from an Irish jaunting car.

In the West Indian islands, such as Saba and Santa Lucia, are several promising sulphur deposits close to the ocean.

A steel wire fly wheel, twenty-five feet in diameter and requiring 250 miles of wire in its construction, has been made in Germany.

Compressed air has proved so satisfactory in use in Pullman, Ill., that it is likely to come into general use there for power transmission.

Perhaps the largest boiler in the United States is that of the New York Heating Company. It was recently put in place, and weighs 119,000 pounds.

The advantages claimed for the triphase electric railway to be installed at Lugano, Switzerland, are that the cars will go as fast up hill as down. Two overhead trolleys are used.

By taking the current directly from the rail the electric train on the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad made a speed of eighty miles an hour recently. This is reckoned a triumph for the "third rail" system.

The Japanese are keeping up with the discoveries of science. A series of sixteen reproductions of photographs obtained by means of Roentgen rays has been issued by Professors Y. Yamaguchi and T. Mizuno, of Tokio University.

Long distance telephones have been placed in the smallest Swiss villages, making it possible to communicate from one end to the other of the country on instruments kept in perfect repair, and on which one can hear distinctly. The fee varies from two to eight cents a message. Electric lighting from water power has been introduced in even small places.

Insurance companies have decided that electric lighting, when the wiring is well done—and they have formulated special rules on the subject—is the safest of all illuminants. Statistics show the following comparative risks: Fires in one year from paraffin and kerosene, 259; from gas, 110; matches used for gas, 35; candles, 88; arc electric lights, 7, and incandescent electric lights, only 1.

Eiffel Tower's English Rival.

Two noticeable differences will exist between the Eiffel Tower in Paris and its English rival, the Wembley Tower, which has been completed up to its first stage. The Eiffel Tower overlooks the city, and the Wembley Tower stands in the midst of the true country; the Eiffel Tower is, moreover, less high than the Wembley is designed to be when finished. It would not do, of course, to erect a tower at all, unless it were to be higher than any other tower in existence, but it appears that the Wembley Tower is being built in installments, and it may be a long time before the last of the 1100 feet lifts its skyscraping finial to the clouds above Wembley Park, says the Boston Transcript.

In the meantime the first platform has this month been opened to the public as a resort, 400 feet above sea level, and the description of the typical rural English landscape which is to be seen from this elevated acre of concrete floor is enough to make the mouth water. The scene commanded from this breezy eminence is true country, save near glimpses of the railway and the masses of bricks and mortar in the distant London suburbs. The shining bosom of Kingsbury Reservoir is underneath, with the northern heights of the metropolis wooded and beautiful beyond. Harrow-on-the-hill, with its landmark spire, and the verdant slopes of Neasden have as a far-off background the hills of Hertfordshire. Windsor Castle has been seen, on exceptionally fine days, and the great wheel at Earl's court, from its "end-on" position, looks like a tall, slender spire. Sweet fields, swelling slopes and abounding woods are all around this lofty standpoint, and the eye rests and lingers upon many a mansion, village and cottage home.

Rattling Windows.

To stop windows rattling on a windy night so as to insure sleep is often a puzzle, and few people realize that they have the remedy awaiting them on the toilet table. Take a dressing comb, wrap it in two or three thicknesses of soft paper and squeeze it, teeth downwards, between the two sashes, or where one fits into the frame. Some old and badly-fitting windows need several wedges, and nothing is better for these than a piece of toilet comb, nicely washed, wrapped in old linen, and covered in a piece of glazed calico. To these can be attached a loop or ribbon so they can hang on a nail near the window frame and always be ready for use.—Detroit Free Press.

Fishing With a Buggy.

A good fish story is told in Beaver Fall. Boyd Jack, of Vanport, drove his buggy into the river at that place to wash it. After working a while he saw what he thought was a large snake gyrating around the buggy. Procuring a club, Jack waited for a good opportunity and let go, striking the supposed snake a stunning blow, which laid it on the top of the water. With the club he then landed the monster on dry land, when, to his surprise, it proved to be a large German carp weighing nineteen pounds.—Pittsburg Commercial Gazette.

THE LIGHT.

There is no shadow where my love is laid;
For (ever thus I fancy in my dream,
That wakes with me and wakes my sleep)
some gleam
Of sunlight, thrusting through the poplar
shade,
Falls there; and e[illegible]n when the wind has
played
His requiem for the Day, one [illegible]y sunbeam,
Pale as the palest moonl[illegible] seem,
Keeps sentinel for Her till starlig[illegible]ade.

And I, remaining he[illegible] and waiting long,
And all enfolded in my sorrow's night,
Who not on[illegible] again her face may
see—
For even memory [illegible]es her likeness wrong—
Am blind and hopeless, only for the light—
This light, this light, through all the
years to be.

—H. C. Bunner.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

"I second the motion," said the man on the rear of the tandem.—Yale Record.

He—"Darling, "we'll have a lot to contend with when we are married." She—"Yes, dear, we'll have each other."—Judy.

"Dear me!" exclaimed the fond father, anxiously; "whatever can be the matter with the baby? It isn't crying."—Puck.

"Queer how everybody resents hot weather." "Yes, and when a fine day comes along they all strut as if they had made it."—Chicago Record.

"I refuse him regularly each month. He proposed last night for the twentieth time." "Oh, he is convinced now that it safe."—Truth

There are two kinds of people: Those who talk without thinking, and those who think without talking; and they make each other very tired.—Puck.

Mr. Youngman—"Is there any way to find out what a woman thinks of you, without proposing?" Mr. Benedict—"Yes; make her mad."—New York Weekly.

Not a Bit Abashed: "I should think those strawberries would be ashamed of the discrepancy between their size and their price." "Oh, they have plenty of sand in them."—Truth.

She—"I hear Miss Flurts is learning to ride a bicycle." He—"But she rode one last year; why does she have to learn again?" She—"Another gentleman is teaching her."—Funny Cuts.

Prisoner—"I hope your Honor will be lenient wit' me, fer I am a poet." Judge—"Hem; ever publish any poems?" Prisoner—"Oh, yes, sir; lots of 'em. Judge—"Six months."—Judge.

Bobbie—"Mother, were all the bad men destroyed by the flood?' Mother—"Yes, my son." Bobbie—(who has just received a whipping from his father)—"When is there going to be another flood?"—Brooklyn Life.

A man who stuttered badly went to consult a specialist about his affliction. The expert asked: "Do you stutter all the time?" "N-n-n-no." Replied the sufferer. "I s-s-s-stut-t-t-t-ter only when I t-t-t-talk."—Harper's Bazar.

Mrs. Thirdwed—"That young Mary Allen makes a perfect idiot of herself over her husband." Mrs. Fourthwed—"Well, my dear, you must remember that he is the first one she ever had."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"I wish we were rich, John, and could do something for the world," Mrs. Clericus remarked, half devoutedly, half impatiently. "But, my dear, we can do good in a quiet way now." "Yes: but no one will ever hear of it."—Tit-Bits.

He (as the pitcher bends himself out of shape just as he is about to deliver the ball)—"Now get on to his curves!" She (her first game)—"Yes, isn't it awful? One would think it impossible for him ever to get back into his original shape."—Puck.

Tommy—"Say, Mollie, I wish I had ten cents to get some candy with." Mollie—"Go and ask father who Socrates was and what he meant by the differential calculus. He's got company, and I shouldn't wonder if he gave you a quarter."—Boston Transcript.

"We try," explained the preceptress, "to give the girls a practical education, and to especially fit them to be wives. Yes. First class in tying a man's cravat, attention! Cooking? Oh, no, not since years ago." Already the new century was dawning, cold and gray.—Detroit Tribune.

The Edelweiss.

In certain parts of the Alpine chain there are certain portions delivered over to the chamois as their own, in which no gun may be fired, where the beautiful creatures may be sure of rest and security, in which they may nurture their young, and to which, when hard pressed they may flee, as as to cities of refuge. In Tyrol such an asylum is called Gamsenfreiheit.

Of late years it has become necessary for law in Switzerland to extend its protection to the edelweiss. This peculiar and beautiful flower is much in request, both by lovers, who present it to their sweethearts, and also for the formation of little mementos for travelers.

The edelweiss does not require an altitude so great that it is near the snow, nor a precipitous rock to crown; the poor plant has been driven higher and even higher and to inaccessible points as the only places where it can live unmolested. At Rosenheim, on the Bavarian plateau, at the roots of the mountains, are fields of edelweiss, where the plant is cultivated to satisfy the insatiable visitor, who insists on going home from his holiday with a tuft in his hat, and on sending dried specimens to all his friends.—Chambers's Journal.