

BAGGING A HIPPO.

How It is Done and How the Flesh of the Animal Tastes.

There are two ways of bagging a hippopotamus, says a writer in the Wild World Magazine, and neither is justified unless the sportsman is sorely in want of food, for its meat is very poor indeed and wants a good deal of preparation to be palatable to any one except the starving. It has a taste I can only describe as fishy, something what beef would taste like after being wrapped up for a couple of days with a Scotch haddock of doubtful freshness.

The hippo may be shot in water. When mortally wounded he will sink and will not reappear on the surface for several hours, consequently a firing outlook has to be kept for the carcass. If he is only slightly wounded he may charge, but more often he will flee and die in the reeds or serve as food for wading birds or crocodiles.

The other and more sporting way is to shoot him on land. This is, as a rule, only possible at night or late in the evening and early in the morning. It would not be wise to find oneself between the river and the wounded hippo, for he at once makes for the water by the shortest route, and he goes so fast that getting out of his way requires pretty speedy feet and great coolness of nerve.

FORCES OF NATURE.

Soft Their Touch, but Constant and Effective Their Work.

What adds to the wonder of the earth's grip is that the milstones that did the work are still doing it, are the gentle forces that career above, on heads—the sunbeam, the cloud, the air, the frost. The rain's gentle fall, the air's velvet touch, the sun's noiseless rays, the frost's exquisite crystals, these combined are the agents that crush the rocks, pulverize the mountains and transform continents of sterile granite into a world of fertile soil.

It is as if baby fingers did the work of powder and dynamite. Give the clouds and the sunbeams time enough and the Alps and the Andes disappear before them or are transformed into plains where corn may grow and cattle graze.

The snow falls as lightly as down and is as soft as down, yet the crags tumble beneath it; compacted by gravity, out of it grew the tremendous sheets that ground off the mountain summits, that scoured out lakes and valleys and uprooted our northern land-crocodiles as the sculptor his clay image.—John Burroughs.

The Distinguished Guest.

Captain Habbe was a man whose name had weight in the French navy. He was a tall man, belonging to the middle aged trouper type. With military qualities of the highest kind, he had a singular bearing, a savage sort of misanthropy and a cynical tongue, which stood in the way of promotion. When he was in the Sixth Infantry, on garrison duty at Commercy, one of his comrades brought his father to dine with him at the officers' mess, a man of humble position and unpretentiously dressed. Captain Habbe, considering that this guest had not been fitly received, gave expression to his opinion, saying that if the executioner of Commercy had come in evening dress he would have had a better reception. The officers denouncing, he made no rejoinder, but shortly afterward came to mess with a guest whose dress was irreproachable. Every one lavished attentions on the unknown. When dinner was over Captain Habbe, raising his glass, proposed the health of "the executioner of Commercy."

Sir Isaac Newton.

The discovery of gravitation was the first of many great ideas that came to "the greatest original thinker of all time." Newton was also the pioneer in announcing the physical properties of light. His epitaph, translated from the Latin, on his monument in Westminster Abbey describes in a few words the greatest accomplishments of Newton. It reads:

"Here lies Isaac Newton, who by vigor of mind always supernatural first demonstrated the motions and figures of the comets, the paths of the comets and the tides of the ocean. He discovered what before his time no one had even suspected, that rays of light are differently refrangible and that this is the cause of colors."

An Eye For an Eye.

The law of Afghanistan is in theory the same as that of Mohammedan countries in general—that is, of the Koran. This is an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and enables the party wronged to avenge himself on a relative if circumstances prevent him from reaching the aggressor in person. Hence revenge becomes among the Afghans a point of honor, which no man may waive except with disgrace.

They Know.

"Now, children," said the teacher. "I've explained to you the nature of a Xmas holiday. Now, give me an instance of a notable holiday." And the class answered in chorus. "May the 1st."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Her Wavering Affections.

"Hubby, I'm in love with that hat." "You fall in love with too many hats. If you'll promise to remain constant to that one as much as six weeks I'll buy it for you."—Buffalo News.

There never was a man so strong but strong drink was stronger.—Detroit Free Press.

GUARDING GOLD AT SEA.

Armer Plate Rooms on Ocean Liners For Holding Bullion.

It would be natural to suppose that shipments of gold bullion back and forth across the Atlantic on big liners would be attended by considerable protection, but there is probably no other place in the world where the transport of great wealth is carried on with such simplicity.

One of our great liners has two strong rooms, the smaller being in close proximity to the captain's quarters, while the other is next to the provision department. The small strong room has its walls, floor and ceiling lined with two inch steel plate and contains nothing in the way of furnishing other than shelves. This has more than once contained enough gold to buy the liner many times over.

The locks, which are of the double variety, are rendered still more secure by covering the keyholes with steel hasps, which are themselves locked in place with massive padlocks. This strong room, being located in the most frequented portion of the ship, is passed by persons at all hours of the day and night, which, after all, is the great protection.

The strong room located near the provision department is twelve feet long by four feet wide, and it often happens that both these rooms are filled to capacity with gold bullion. On one occasion the two rooms contained £20,000,000 in gold bullion, packed in small kegs bound with steel hoops.—London Answers.

TAUGHT HIM HIS DUTY.

Now He Knows All About the Etiquette of the Droschky.

The Siberian method of riding in a droschky requires an etiquette all its own, which, although sometimes surprising to the English traveler who encounters it for the first time, is based upon practical considerations. The danger of being thrown out has determined the prevailing usage, says Mrs. John Clarence Lee in "Across Siberia Alone."

If a gentleman escorts a lady it is his task to hold her in the carriage—not an easy occupation. He accomplishes it by putting his arm round her waist. A man who fails to do so is considered as lacking in courtesy. When you have become acquainted with the custom it seems entirely sensible and comfortable, but it seems strange at first to find yourself settling back into a stranger's arms.

An American who had lived in Russia and whom we met in China told us that he was driving with a woman, physician, a Russian, middle aged and of rotund Russian type. He knew nothing about his duty toward her, and they thrashed round that three by five droschky until the woman turned angrily toward him.

"Have you been brought up in the backwoods that you don't know enough to hold me in this droschky?" she said. He immediately put his arm round her waist as far as it would go and held on hard.

How Standing Armies Originated.

The earliest European standing army was that of Macedonia, established about 338 B. C. by Philip father of Alexander the Great. It was the second in the world's history, having been preceded only by that of Sesostris, the king of Egypt, who organized a military caste about 1800 B. C. The most interesting army that formed by the Turkish Janizaries was first being fully organized in 1392. It was a century later that the standing army of France, the earliest in western Europe, was established by Charles VII. in the shape of "compagnies d'ordonnance," numbering 10,000 men. Rivalry thereupon compelled the nations to adopt similar means of defense. In England a standing army proper was first established by Cromwell, but was disbanded under Charles II., with the exception of a few regiments called the guards, or household brigade. This was the nucleus of England's present army.

Force of Habit.

A consul in Guatemala tells a story of a man who ran a store in Retalhuleu who had been ordering candles from Germany for many years. Each candle was wrapped in blue paper, the shipment came wrapped in yellow paper. The people would not buy them in vain he argued and showed that the candles were the same as he had been selling. It was no use, and he could not sell those candles until he sent to a paper supply house in Guatemala City and bought sufficient blue paper in which to wrap them. Then he had no difficulty in selling them.

A Proof.

"Aniasta cannot reason." "Did you ever try to argue with a bulldog?" "Of course not." "Then try it. He soon catches on, and you'll find that he is quite capable of holding his own."—Baltimore American.

So Easy.

Gavin—There's one thing I like about Jones' shop; you can order your goods through the telephone and after a short wait have them delivered. Bailey—That is just what I don't like, Gavin—What? Bailey—The short wait.—New York Journal.

Not Superstitious.

"Are you really a painless dentist?" "Surely I am. Didn't you read the sign on the office door?" "Oh, yes, I read it, but I don't believe in signs."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Rest is sweet after strife.—Owen Meredith.

OLD ENGLISH HOUSES.

In the Days of Wooden Huts, Thatched Roofs and Clay Floors.

The habitations of English common people for centuries consisted of a wooden hut of one room, with the fire built in the center. To this hut, if a man increased in family and wealth, a lean-to was added and later another and another. The roofs were of thatch the beds of loose straw or straw beds with bolsters of the same laid on the floor or perhaps eventually shut in by a shelf and ledge like the berths of a ship or by a small closet.

The Saxon thane or knight built a more pretentious "hall," a large open room like the Roman atrium with a lofty roof thatched or covered with slates or wooden shingles. In the center of the hard clay floor burned great fires of dry wood, whose thin acrid smoke escaped from openings in the roof, above the hearth or by the doors, windows and openings under the eaves of the thatch.

By day the "hearthsmen" and visitors, when not working or fighting, sat on long benches on either side of the fire and, as John Hay puts it, "calmly drank and jowed" or, gathering at long benches placed on trestles, regaled themselves on some sort of porridge with fish and milk or meat and ale.

At night straw or rushes spread on the floor formed beds for the entire company in the earlier and ruder days, when the "luser sort" were glad to share their straw with the cows.—National Magazine.

SEEING THE WIND.

Easy to Watch the Air Currents Flowing Like a Waterfall.

It is said that any one may actually see the wind by means of a common hand saw. The experiment is simple enough to be worth trying at least. According to those who have made the experiment, all that is necessary is a hand saw and a good breeze.

On any windy day hold the saw against the wind—that is, if the wind is in the north hold the saw with one end pointing east and the other west. Hold the saw with the teeth uppermost and tip it slowly toward the horizon until it is at an angle of about forty five degrees.

By glancing along the edge of the teeth you can "see the wind." It will be pouring over the edge of the saw much after the manner that water pours over a waterfall. This is doubtless due to the fact that there are always fine particles of dust in the air, and in a strong breeze the wind forces against the standing sides of the saw, slides on the surface and suddenly "spins over" when it reaches the top.

It is doubtless the tiny particles that make the air dust laden that can be seen falling over the edge of the saw as the wind current drops, but it is about as near as any one can get to seeing the wind under normal conditions.—Washington Post.

Humor in Old Wills.

A certain Lieutenant Colonel Nash left an annuity to the bell ringers of Bath to "toll dolefully" on each anniversary of his wedding day, and contrite Mr. Withipol of Walthamstow left the bulk of his property to his wife, "trustee," he says—"yes, I may say as I will marry, assuring myself that she will marry no man for fear to meet with so evil a husband as I have been to her."

Mr. Jasper Mayne at least considered himself witty when he bequeathed to his valet a worn-out portmanteau, as it contained something, said the will, which would make him drink. The excited valet ripped open the trunk and found a red herring in it. So, doubtless, did the Scotch gentleman who in 1877 left to his son's care his two worst watches, "because," he said, "I know he is sure to dissect them."—St. James' Gazette.

Wonderful Memory.

A few years ago there was a teacher in Milwaukee named Israel Mullin who was able to tell at the end of the week the number of heads and their weights he had handled for the six days past without so much as a figure on paper. It would have been useless to furnish him with paper and pencils, his memory was found to be unerring. He was dismissed once for using liquor too freely and a man appointed to his place who used pencil and paper. The first week the pencil and paper man made over a dozen errors, and Mullin got his job back.—Pittsburgh Press.

Knew Traveling Man.

"She's a sensible girl," said the first traveling man. "You bet she is," said the second. "Last night when I took her to dinner before ordering she asked me if I was going to pay the check myself or work it into the expense account."—Detroit Free Press.

Minority's Power.

"You believe in the will of the majority, of course." "Well," replied Three Fingers Sam. "It's all right, theoretical; but it won't always work out in practice. I've seen two men hold up a whole trainload of people."—Washington Star.

Remarks by One's Neighbors. After nearly every marriage the neighbor women offer gratuitous insult to the groom by saying, "And her mother had such high ambitions for her daughter!"—Exchange.

Postponing the Evil Day. Gladys—Why don't you let Tom propose if you love him? Muriel—Because when we are engaged I shall have to make him economize.—Puck.

LOCUST TREES.

They Are Very Easy to Raise and Yield Valuable Timber.

No wood is easier or more quickly grown than the common locust, and but few if any kinds of timber are more valuable to their owners at this time of need in lumber that has a commercial value.

Curiously enough locust trees will grow in almost any soil. They are easily started and can be transplanted without danger of loss. They also may be grown in out of the way or waste places where the soil is unfit for cultivation, and they grow so rapidly that in a few years a locust grove will have trees that are large enough to be made into posts for fencing or lumber for furniture or house finishing.

Locusts bear the most honey laden flower carried by any tree extensively grown in America, and where there are plenty of locusts and bees in the same community there will be a heavy yield of honey.

Locust posts have been known to remain in the ground for fencing purposes for a period of sixty years, and when removed the bark was not decayed, and the wood was almost as solid as iron.

The latest use for locust is in the manufacture of fine furniture and interior finishing of fine residences. The wood has a grain and color not found in any other timber.—New York Journal.

TWO FINE SHOTS.

They Won Fame For the Marksmen as a Lion Killer.

A good story is told of a trading agent in Nyassaland. He was obsessed with a particularly real horror of lions. One of these brute beasts began to get up the natives of the nearby village, doing terrible havoc. The agent barricaded himself in his home and slept with six native warriors on duty in case the lion should try to break into his house.

One night he thought he heard the lion prowling around and promptly fired out of the window, knocking a hole in the government's coat. The following morning he was astonished to see what had happened.

That night he again heard sounds which seemed to foretell the presence of the lion. He seized his rifle and fired and this time succeeded in bagging the district officer's favorite mule at the first shot.

A certain well known sportsman, who shall be anonymous, was hunting in the district and heard the story. He wrote to the agent and congratulated him on shooting his first lion. The agent rose to the occasion and now alleges all skillfully by producing the letter. He has since acquired quite a reputation as a lion hunter on the strength of this testimonial.—Captain J. W. Robert, Foren in American Boy.

Birds' Eggs.

Even the same kind of bird often lays eggs that show a great difference in their markings. And often this is true of the same individual bird. At least one long, infertile egg is included in the clutch of a house sparrow, besides several eggs that are of a darker or lighter shade than each other. One may find a dozen clutches that contain some one type quite different from the rest. The tree sparrow also lays one always different from the others in the clutch. Some birds always lay an uncolored egg, such as the golden eagle, osprey and others. Some birds' eggs vary much more than others in color and markings. A result of experience shows that the following are among the common birds that lay eggs which vary considerably: Robin, linnet, rook, skylark, cuckoo, hawk and snipe.—Chicago Herald.

Two Trees.

The two novel orange trees that are the parents of all of California's millions of Washington novel trees are still alive. One of the trees is in the garden of Fray's Mission in San Jose, where it was transplanted by Theodore Roosevelt when he was president. The other is at the head of the famous Magnolia avenue at Riverside. The two trees were sent by the government to L. C. Tibbetts, a Riverside colonist, in 1874. Then followed the development of California's great novel or orange.—San Francisco Chronicle.

A Bad Bargain.

"They say she literally bought the count, and now I guess she wishes she'd bought him on the installment plan." "Why so?" "Then all she'd have to do would be to stop payments and they would take him away."—Boston Transcript.

Father's Knock.

Irate Father—How can that young man do a day's work after sitting here playing and yodeling till midnight? Marion—He says four hours' sleep is all a man needs. Irate Father—Who told him what a man needs?—New York Globe.

Queer.

"Queer, isn't it?" "What is?" "You never hear a man admit that he's a self made failure."—Detroit Free Press.

The One Exception.

Mrs. Fluddub—You have never done anything really clever in your whole life, Mr. Fluddub—You seem to forget, my dear, that I married you.—Judge.

She Won.

Newlywed—My angel, I wish you wouldn't paint. Mrs. Newlywed—Now, Jack, have you ever seen an angel that wasn't painted?—London Mail.

PLANNING THE MEAL.

Balanced Rations an Important Factor in Home Economics.

"Oh, dear! This eternal planning and contriving, from meal to meal, over what to serve next." A common enough exclamation, surely, and one familiar to the family man, but too often considers wife's work more or less of a sine-cure and wonders why she frets so easily over trifles.

Just throwing things together in a haphazard way, regardless of the food's effect on the general health and efficiency of those who must eat it, is a wasteful and even a dangerous process.

Nowadays the thoughtful housewife "balances rations" as skillfully and carefully as does the careful stock feeder. She feels that what is good for beasts of the field is surely worth applying to man.

A few hints on balancing rations from the home economics department, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, follow:

1. Fat, protein and carbohydrates should be distributed through the day so that no meal will contain an excessive amount of any one foodstuff.

2. Don't serve two or more foods rich in the same foodstuff at one meal. For example, macaroni and cheese with meat, rice and potatoes.

3. Don't serve the same food in the same form twice in the same day except with such staples as bread, butter and milk. Never serve such a combination as tomato soup and tomato salad, creamed peas and cream of pea soup in the same meal.

4. Work for flavor contrasts between different courses of a meal. Seek to have pleasing combinations of flavor, color and form in each course.

5. Plan to serve a fruit or vegetable at each meal. A mixed diet of vegetable and animal food is safest and best.

PARIS AND BERLIN.

Both Know What It is to See Foreign Armies Within Their Gates.

Paris has had severe experiences in the way of surrenders to invading armies. On March 31, 1814, the allied armies that had besieged in Napoleon entered the French capital and occupied it with a force of 250,000 troops. After Napoleon's escape from Elba and his defeat at Waterloo the armies of the allies again entered Paris July 7, 1871. Thus the great city had to surrender to its enemies twice within sixteen months. Fifty-five years later, Jan. 28, 1917, the city surrendered against the time to the victors in the Franco-German war, after a brisk but unfruitful struggle.

Berlin has been foreign troops entered the gates no fewer than three times in the last 100 years. The first time, 1806, when Napoleon's army of 100,000 men entered Berlin in 1807, when Frederick the Great was engaged in fighting the French on the Rhine. During this time the Austrians imposed a fine of 500,000 on the city, as well as commandeering a large quantity of provisions and equipment for their troops. It was only just over three years later when both the Russian and Austrian troops, then allies of one another, entered Berlin. This time the city was fined 1,000,000.

The time that will be best remembered, however, was the entry of Napoleon into Berlin after the victory of Jena. Napoleon inflicted a very heavy fine on the Germans and forced them to feed his troops.—London Tit-Bits.

Saved His Dog.

Lord Rosebery is a great lover of animals, and on one occasion he actually went so far as to risk his life for a favorite dog. His lordship was on board a steamer when suddenly his dog fell overboard. Much distressed, Lord Rosebery asked the captain to stop the ship—a request which was refused.

"If it were a man overboard," said the captain, "why, then, of course." "Oh," said Lord Rosebery, "that can be easily managed," and to the captain's astonishment, he leapt overboard after the dog himself.

Naturally, the steamer was promptly stopped, a boat was lowered with all speed, and both dog and master were rescued, none the worse for their experience.—London Tit-Bits.

Death by Freezing.

It has never been clearly understood why severe cold causes death, but a variety of reasons have been assumed—the accumulation of carbonic acid, paralysis of the vasomotor centers, loss of heat, accumulation of blood in the heart owing to stagnant circulation, anemia of the brain and destruction of the red blood corpuscles.—Philadelphia Press.

Important Detail.

Bacon—I see your brother is in business again. Egbert—Yes. "Is it a gainful occupation?" "I guess so, but it's hard to tell whether he'll gain money or experience."—Youkers Statesman.

Would Not Be So Cruel.

Alice—Now that you've broken your engagement with Jack, you will of course return the diamond ring he gave you? Betty—Certainly not. It would be a constant reminder of the happiness he had missed.—Boston Transcript.

One Exception.

"Two negatives are equal to an affirmative." "Not if her father says no and the girl backs him."—Baltimore American.

The primary vocation of man is a life of activity.—Goethe.

BATTLES AND DOWNPOURS.

There is No Connection Between Gun-Fire and Rainstorms.

So far as the records are available, the rain accompanying or immediately following great battles is not unlike that which might have been expected in the course of natural events, says a writer in the Popular Science Monthly. Bearing in mind the fact, already stated, that throughout large areas rain occurs on an average once in three or four days and also the subjective fact that rain associated with July 4 celebrations or with battles would doubtless not have been remembered had it not been for such associations, the hypothesis appears to have no foundation.

In 1862 the United States government disproved the idea by experiments in which violent explosions of dynamite were produced within clouds by means of kites and balloons, with no rain following as a direct or even an indirect result. The practice, still followed in various European countries, of attempting to prevent hail by bombarding approaching clouds or of projecting vortex rings of smoke upward also is without scientific basis. The relatively feeble convection currents resulting from these artificial attempts to influence the weather are too meager to have any appreciable effect upon the massive convection accompanying storms and are wholly inadequate to influence precipitation.

SWISS MILITARY SYSTEM.

Tests All Youths Must Pass Before They Become Soldiers.

The Swiss system is ultra militaristic and probably would never be applicable to the United States. But it is interesting, nevertheless, as indicating how the problem of defense has been met and apparently solved by the earnest and patriotic people of a republic like our own.

The Swiss system is compulsory and begins with the early schooling of each boy. He does not drill or handle firearms, however, until he is twenty years old, when he reports to federal authorities for physical and literary examination. He must be able to read and write and figure, and answer questions in elemental Swiss history and geography.

The physical tests require that the applicant shall cover at least eight feet in a running jump, lift a weight of thirty-seven pounds in both hands at least four times, and run eighty yards in fourteen seconds.

Those who fall in these tests are given an extension of time for further training, not to exceed four years, and if physically disqualified at the end of that period they are obliged to pay a tax, or to take some assigned position which they can fill.—Kansas City Journal.

The Sixteenth Century Carver.

At the formal banquet of the sixteenth century the man who carved the meat was bound with the red tape of precedent. When carving for distinguished guests he had to remember that certain parts of the birds or meat must be set aside. In carving for his lord and lady he was expected to exercise great discretion in the size of the pieces he sent round, "for ladies will be soon angry and their thoughts soon changed, and some lords are soon pleased and some not, as they be of complexion." He was expected to have the rules both of the kitchen and the parlor at his knife's end. A pike, for instance, must be sliced up whole for a lord and in slices for commoner folk. The rank of his diners, too, determined whether a pig was to be served up whole, sliced, plain or with gold leaf or whether new bread or bread three days old should be eaten.

Care of the Ear.

Never be alarmed if a living insect enters the ears. Pouring warm water into the canal will drown it, when it will generally come to the surface and can easily be removed by the fingers. A few puffs of tobacco smoke blown into the ear will stupefy the insect. Never meddle with the ear if a foreign body, such as a bead, button or seed enters it. Leave it absolutely alone, but have a physician attend to it. More damage has been done by injudicious attempts at the extraction of a foreign body than could ever come from its presence in the ear.—Health.

Attached In Front and Rear.

A youngster of our acquaintance who has a faculty for getting into scrapes recently expressed the wish that he was a postage stamp. When asked why, he answered, "Because a postage stamp can only be licked once," whereupon we pointed out that the stamp received, besides the licking, a severe punch in the face.—Boston Transcript.

Distinction.

"What distinction do you make between 'entertainment' and 'art'?" "Entertainment," replied the theater manager, "is what people want. 'Art' is what people want to make other people think they want."—Washington Star.

Pretty Thin.

"Thin" replied the man who was talking about a mutual acquaintance. "Well, he's so thin that when he eats macaroni he can only swallow it one piece at a time."—Pittsburgh Press.

Declined With Thanks.

Beggar—Wou't you give me a nickel for my starving wife, sir? Pedestrian—Nothing doing. I'm married already.—Philadelphia Ledger.

To preserve in one's duty and to be silent is the first answer to calumny.—Washington.