

NIGHT ROBES.

They Were Once Very Gorgeous and Worn in the Daytime.

In the middle ages night robes, as a general thing, were unknown luxuries.

Under the Tudors royalty and nobility had them made of silk or velvet, and, as the old books say, "hence no washing was necessary."

A night robe of black satin bound with black taffeta and edged with velvet of the same color was daintily fashioned for Anne Boleyn.

More luxurious still was one owned by Queen Bess. It was of black velvet, fur lined, and greatly offset by flowing borders of silk lace. And in 1568 her majesty gave orders that George Brodigan should deliver "threescore and six best sable skynnes, to furnish us a night gown." Four years later her highness orders the delivery of "twelve yards of purple velvet, friezed on the back syde, with white and russet silke," for a night gown for herself and also orders the delivery of fourteen yards of murrey damask for the "makeynge of a night gowne" for some one else.

Night gowns for ladies of a later period were called "nyght vails." In Queen Anne's time it was the fashion to wear them over the customary dress in the streets in the daytime, when out on a pleasure walk. And, as was fitting, ladies who indulged in night-caps had them also made of silk or velvet, with "much pretty garnishing of lace and glittering cords," and the fair ones made presentation of costly caps to each other as tokens of respect or affection.

MARINE TURTLES.

How They Are Stripped of Their Shells While Alive.

The shells shipped from the Colon district are taken from turtles caught on the Lagarto and San Blas coasts of the Caribbean sea during the months of May, June, July and August, when they approach the shore to deposit eggs, which are laid on the sandy beaches above high water mark at night. Holes are dug about one and a half feet deep and the eggs deposited therein. Generally about three layings are made during a period of nine weeks. The eggs are lightly covered with sand and left to be hatched out by the heat of the sun. The turtles are caught either while on shore or in the water by means of nets.

As a rule, they are killed immediately after being caught, cleaned and the shell frame washed with sand. But on the San Blas coast the Indians do not kill them, but at once proceed to remove the shell by subjecting the turtles to great heat, afterward throwing the turtles back into the sea. By the application of heat the successive plates of shell come off very easily.

Turtles caught in these waters vary in size from one to four and a half feet long, with a maximum weight of 150 pounds, and the average weight of shell obtained from each is from six to seven pounds. The commercial value of tortoise shell depends upon the thickness and size of the plates rather than upon the brilliancy of the colors.

The Equinoxes.

"The popular belief that storms are more frequent about the time of the equinox, or when 'the sun crosses the line' in March and September, receives some slight degree of support from the investigations of European scientists," states an expert of the weather bureau. "In southwestern Europe March is the stormiest month, while in the British islands and Norway January takes the lead in that respect; but, considering Europe as a whole, it appears that storms preponderate near the seasons of the equinoxes."

Good Dog.

The brave Newfoundland had just rescued his young master from the boiling surf.

"My dog, too," said L'Oignon pensively, "once saved my life."

"Tell us about it," said Tete de Veau, with eager interest.

"I sold him for \$3," said L'Oignon, "when I was nearly starving."

Full Price.

Mrs. Skrimper—One can never believe one-half that is said in advertisements. Blasfold & Tating had an advertisement in yesterday's paper saying that everything was marked down. Mrs. Bargainhunter—Yes, I saw it. Mrs. Skrimper—Well, it was false. I bought two postage stamps there this morning, and I had to pay as much as ever for them.

The Song Bird.

They say the birds are timid! Great heavens, to be so small and lovely in a world of hawks and snares and yet dare to sing as if the gods were good! In all the wide creation there is nothing braver than the heart of a singing bird.

Yet Both Made Hits.

Director—Say, my man, how is it that Shakespeare's statue is standing on the pedestal marked Scott? Attendant—He must have got his base on an error, sir.—Brooklyn Life.

ARTIFICIAL WARMTH.

Its Use an Inherited Habit and a Sign of Luxury.

With the big, restless, energetic world outside of this tropical belt, however, the matter of keeping warm is ever present, troublesome and expensive, throughout half of each passing year.

As a matter of fact, the world of humanity dwelling in stoveland never has been in all the ages really and comfortably warm in winter. It is largely our own fault. Mankind is the only animal which employs fire in the effort to survive the cold of the winters. The hardy lower animals do not need it, however much their luxuriously ornamented representatives, the dog and the cat, may enjoy it when they have a chance.

Ancient man only got himself rid of his provident coat of hair and his sufficient latent heat when he began to loaf around the family cooking stove and absorb the intoxicating comfort of artificial warmth. This faraway ancestor is responsible for the fact that the present day human being, outside of the belt aforesaid, is obliged to keep close to a thermometer registering nearly or quite 70 degrees F. from October to May, besides which he must needs wear extra clothing. This also is an inherited habit.

A traveler west once asked a half naked Indian in midwinter how he managed to stand the weather. The Indian replied: "Your face no got a coat. It no cold. Indian face all over."—National Magazine.

VIRTUE IN COPPER.

The Metal Is a Death Dealer to All Disease Germs.

"Copper is a marvelous preventive of disease. If we returned to the old copper drinking vessels of our forefathers, typhoid epidemic would disappear."

The speaker, a filtration expert, took a copper cent from his pocket.

"Examine this cent under the microscope," he said, "and you will find it altogether free from disease germs. Examine gold and silver coins, and you will find them one wriggling and contorting germ mass. Yet copper coins pass through dirtier hands than gold and silver ones. You'd think they ought to be alive with micro-organisms. But no. Copper kills germs. Diphtheria and cholera cultures smeared on a copper cent die in less than two hours."

"They have many cholera epidemics in China, but certain towns are always immune. These towns keep their drinking water in great copper vessels. Travelers have tried to buy these vessels, for they are beautiful, but the villagers will not sell them. They have a superstition that their health and welfare depend on their retention. I wish all superstitions were as true and salutary as that."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

The Joke Was on the Students.

When Dr. Nathan Lord was president of Dartmouth college he used to drive about in a dilapidated, old fashioned contrivance. The students became tired of seeing the concern and, though Dr. Lord knew of this, he clung to the old calash. One night a group of the young men hauled the thing out of the shed where it was kept, took it several miles down the road toward Lebanon and hid it in a spot where it was concealed by dense foliage. They were just about to depart, well satisfied with the tiresome job, when the curtain which completely enveloped the front of the calash was suddenly pushed aside and the well known face of President Lord appeared. "Now, gentlemen," he said, "you may draw me back again."

Homes Under the Ground.

In the salt district in Cheshire, England, the brine has been pumped so continuously out of the earth that the land has settled very considerably. The houses naturally sink with the earth, and in some of the streets in Northwich only the roofs are visible. The houses are inhabited, although the rooms are underground. In a great many cases additional stories have been added, so that by living in the upper rooms the residents may have some light and air. The roadways sink, too, but are kept up to the proper level by the government.

He Laid.

"Don't waste your time in clipping off the branches," said the woodman to his son, "but lay your ax at the root of the tree." And the young man went out and laid his ax at the foot of the tree, like a good and dutiful boy, and then he went fishing. Truly there is nothing so beautiful as filial obedience.—Strand Magazine.

One View of It.

"But if she makes all her own dresses I should think she'd be a good wife for you. It shows she's industrious and sensible."

"Not for me, thank you. It simply shows how poor her father must be."—Philadelphia Ledger.

There is no virtue in the Sunday that makes children say, "I wish it was Monday."

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