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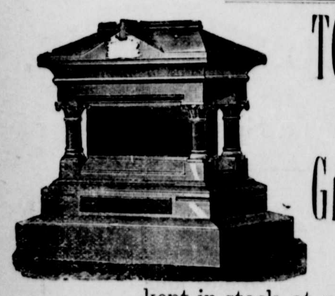
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Leather is prepared from the hides of nearly all aquatic animals, principally the seal, whale, porpoise, alligator and walrus. The use of these hides is almost as old as man himself, and they have ever been most eagerly sought after for the many uses to which they could be put after being prepared as leather. At the time of the Russian occupation of Alaska they made great use of walrus hides. Furs were usually wrapped up in these skins, and when they reached Kiachta, China, the great mart of those days, the skin was sewed over chests of tea. On arrival at Moscow the soundest portions were removed, cut up and stamped into kopecks and a variety of small change. This formed the chief currency of Alaska for a time. The Russians also made harness of walrus leather, while the natives of Alaska used the skin as a covering for their boats.

A queerer kind of leather, however, comes from the bodies of fishes. An extremely fine quality of green leather made in Turkey is manufactured from the skin of an ugly fish called the angel fish. The sword grips of the German army are made from shark leather, which is beautiful in pattern, being marked with dark diamond shaped figures. This skin comes from a North sea shark called the diamond shark. Leather manufacturers have tried to produce a substitute from animal hides, but in vain. Unlike animal leather, fish leather is absolutely impervious to water and never gets soggy from dampness. Therefore it is ideal for sword grips, as, no matter how much the hand may perspire, the grip remains hard and dry.

Leather is made from the skin of the Pacific coast and great lakes sturgeon, which is exceedingly tough and is used in making laces for joining leather belting. In Canada the skin of a species of siluroid is used in making gloves.

THE PARIS CAFE.

It Is the Frenchman's Outdoor Home Part of the Day.

For an hour or two of the day the cafe is the Parisian's outdoor home. There he gets all the morning and afternoon papers. There if he likes he may write his business letters and private correspondence. Many a "client" writes all or most of his correspondence at his little marble topped table. The garcon brings him the black portfolio stocked with letter paper and envelopes and pens and ink. Notre client may use up as much paper and envelopes as he pleases. These are provided by the staff of waiters at their own charge, not by M. le Patron, the landlord—a curious custom. Notre client is welcome to sit there all day long over his newspapers and correspondence and his glass of bordeaux or his "lait chaud" (perhaps with a nip of rum in it when the weather is cold).

The counter is reserved for waiters and for M. le Patron's wife or daughter or lady clerk, who sits behind it receiving orders.

The "habitues," "nos clients" or passing customers are comfortably seated at their neat, scrupulously clean little tables. Outside the chairs and little tables are arranged in rows, three, four, five, six deep. There "nos clients" sit at their ease underneath the broad awning when the sun is ablaze. Winter drives "notre client" indoors, though out he will come again on the slightest temptation from the weather, for your Parisian loves fresh air, loves to gaze over his light bordeaux or his "bock" at the tide of human life as it sweeps by. On the inner half of the pavement beneath the awnings, behind the trees, along the miles of boulevard, sit in their thousands in spring, summer and autumn the customers of the Paris cafe.—London News.

The Hamburg Bourse.

Hamburg's first bourse, established in 1558-60, was a shelterless, paved meeting place, 112 feet long and 42 feet wide, supported toward the water front by means of bulwarks and having its three other sides surrounded by a low stone wall. In 1577 the bourse was enlarged by adding a cloth hall, supplied with a roof. The present bourse also differs in many respects considerably from American and other foreign exchanges. No membership exists here, but attendance and admittance to all privileges of the floor free of charge are permitted to every respectable male person.

Derby's Market Stone.

In Derby, England, there is a curious relic of the great plague of 1665. It stands in the arboretum gardens and is commonly called "the market stone." To avoid infection the country folk from the surrounding villages would leave their orders for anything they might want with the watchman, who used to go into the town, make the necessary purchases and deposit them on the steps of "the market stone."

A Good Reason.

The good woman was distributing a few tracts behind the bars.

"And what are you in for, my unfortunate friend?" she asked of No. 1313.

"'Cause I can't git out," sullenly answered the prisoner.

And the good woman passed on.

An Extended Sonnet.

"He doesn't display much originality in his poems."

"Doesn't he? He wrote a sonnet with twenty-three lines the other day. If that isn't originality, what do you call it?"—Chicago Record-Herald.

Active natures are rarely melancholy. Activity and sadness are incompatible.—Bovee.

A LINCOLN STORY.

When Lew Wallace First Met the Third Rate Lawyer.

The few uneventful years Lew Wallace spent in Covington were distinguished by one important event. It was there that he saw Abraham Lincoln for the first time. The Indiana bar had even then some brilliant and notable men among its members, and a case of extraordinary interest had called them together at the fall term of the circuit court. In relating the circumstance General Wallace said: "During the session we were in the habit of gathering at the old tavern in the evening after adjournment. It was a brilliant company, whose talk was well worth hearing. One evening there appeared suddenly in our midst a tall, ungainly man, homely of visage and rather shabbily dressed. He did not intrude himself, but sat on the outskirts of the company, neither proffering opinions nor taking sides in the controversies that occasionally became pretty warm. No one seemed to know anything about him, and when I asked a friend who he was he replied carelessly, 'Oh, that is some third rate lawyer, a man named Lincoln from somewhere in Illinois.' One evening, however, after he had been there some time," General Wallace continued, "something moved him to speak, and then he began to talk. We all sat spellbound.

"I have never," General Wallace said, "heard anything that approached it—the logic, the wit, the pertinent anecdote, that poured out in an unceasing stream. He talked thus for three solid hours. Some one said, 'Whoever that fellow is, we shall hear from him again some day.' It was my first meeting with Abraham Lincoln," he said, "and the prophecy that we should hear from him again, it must be admitted, was abundantly verified."—Mary H. Krout in Harper's Weekly.

GIANTS OF THE PAST.

Some That Were Thirty or Forty Feet High, So It Is Said.

The past was more prolific in the production of giants than the present. In 1830 one of these giants, who was exhibited at Rouen, was ten feet high, and the giant Galabra, brought from Arabia to Rome in the time of Claudius Caesar, was the same height. Fannum, who lived in the time of Eugene II., was eleven and one-half feet in height.

The Chevalier Scrog in his journey to the peak Tenerife found in one of the caverns of that mountain the head of a giant who had sixty teeth and who was not less than fifteen feet high. The giant Faragus, slain by Orlando, the nephew of Charlemagne, according to reports, was twenty-eight feet high. In 1814 near St. Gernad was found the tomb of the giant Isolent, who was not less than thirty feet high. In 1590 near Rouen was found a skeleton whose head held a bushel of corn and which was nineteen feet in height. The giant Baert was twenty-two feet high.

In 1623 near the castle in Dauphine a tomb was found thirty feet long, sixteen feet wide and eight feet high on which were cut in graystone the words "Kentolochus Rex." The skeleton was found entire and measured twenty-five and one-fourth feet high, ten feet across the shoulders and five feet from breastbone to the back.

But France is not the only country where giant skeletons have been unearthed. Near Palermo, Sicily, in 1516, was found the skeleton of a giant thirty feet high and in 1559 another forty-four feet high. Near Magrino, on the same island, in 1816, was found the skeleton of a giant of thirty feet whose head was the size of a hogshead and each tooth weighed five ounces.—New York Herald.

A Bad Place to Get Sick.

In his book, "Uganda and Its Peoples," J. F. Cunningham tells of a curious manner of treating the sick among a certain native African tribe: "When a person fell ill the village prophet was called in. He said at once whether the sick person would recover or not. If he was doomed to die he was allowed to fulfill the prophecy; if he was to live there was no need of medical aid." Another strange custom is explained in the words of the native who when asked by the author why women were not allowed to eat the flesh of goats replied, "There is no why; it is the custom."

Dumley Bewildered.

Dumley—I never saw a man like Brixton to drift away from the subject under discussion.

Barrass—As, for instance?

Dumley—I just asked him what he was doing the night I saw him down the road, and he evaded an answer by remarking that he had known people to get rich by attending to their own business. I have no doubt he has, but why should he mention it at that time?—Boston Transcript.

She Was Posted.

"Now," said Mr. Hazzard, who was instructing her in the mysteries of golf, "you know what a 'tee' is. Let me explain now the duties of the 'caddie.' You see"—

"Of course," she interrupted, "the caddie's what you put the tea in. I know what a tea caddie is."—Philadelphia Press.

The Family Jar.

"Pa," said little Willie, "is a family jar one o' them kind that's used for preservin'?"

"Scarcely, my son," replied pa, "at least not for preserving the peace."—Philadelphia Ledger.

The vivacity which augments with years is not far from folly.—Rochefoucauld.

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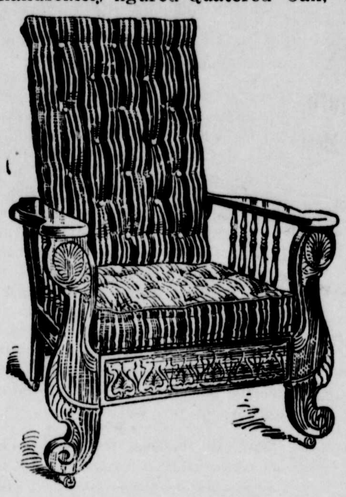
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