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A QUEER ANIMAL.

Peculiar Toadlike Creature That Is Found In Surinam.

In Surinam there is a remarkable toadlike creature the female of which carries the young in a series of cells in the thick skin of the back, which assumes a strange honeycomb-like appearance. When this lady toad is carrying her nursery about with her she is a very repulsive looking object. Single handed she would be quite unable to cope with the important question of placing eggs where they will be most favorably disposed for hatching, and for this she has to rely on the good services of her mate. Soon after the eggs are laid they are taken up by the male and pressed, one by one, into the cells in the thickened skin of his partner's back. There they grow until they fit closely to the hexagonal form of their prisons, each of which is closed above by a kind of trapdoor.

After a period of some eighty-two days the eggs reach their full development and produce, not tadpoles, but actually perfect little toads. The reason of this is that the tadpoles, which require to breathe the air dissolved in the water by means of their external gills, could not exist in the cells, and consequently this stage of development is passed through very rapidly within the egg. In due time the young toads to the number of 80 or 100 burst open the lids of their cells, poke out their noses and make their entrance into the world. The mother toad rubs off the remains of the cells against any convenient stone or plant stem and comes out in a brand new spring outfit.

"HIS HIGH MIGHTINESS."

One of the Titles Proposed For the First President.

One of the embarrassments of the new office of president was in regard to title—how the chief magistrate of the United States should be addressed. The subject had occupied the attention of congress, and a joint committee from the two houses had been unable to agree. The newspapers had taken the matter up and discussed it freely. With some "his excellency" was thought the proper caper, others wished a longer and higher sounding title, and not a few favored the appellation given to rulers in Holland—"high mightiness." It was finally decided to the satisfaction of all parties that Washington should be called simply the president of the United States.

While these controversies were at white heat Speaker Muhlenburg was one day at a dinner given in honor of Washington and was asked by the president elect what he thought of the title of "high mightiness."

"Why, general," replied Muhlenburg, laughing, "if we were certain that the office would always be held by men as large as yourself or my friend Wynkoop (a large sized gentleman from Pennsylvania sitting at the table) it would be appropriate enough, but if by chance a president as small as my opposite neighbor should be elected it would become ridiculous."—Washington Post.

Friendship Among Fishes.

The sea cucumber, with long body and mouth fringed with tentacles in a feathery circle, gives lodgings to smaller forms, which have been called its messmates, which actually live within its body and swim in and out at will, thus finding a welcome shelter and also feeding on the half digested food of their hosts. In similar way sea anemones, attached to a rock and furnished with a circle of feelers or tentacles, with which they catch and hold their food, make friends with little fishes which swim fearlessly within their grasp and are constantly infolded for a few moments in what to the prey of the anemone would be a living tomb, but very soon the tentacles unclose and allow the playful little prisoner to escape at will. In similar fashion fish have been seen living and sporting within the arms of tropical starfish.

A Curious Oath.

The following curious oath was until recent years administered in the courts of the Isle of Man: "By this book, and by the holy contents thereof, and by the wonderful works that God has miraculously wrought in heaven above and in the earth beneath in six days and seven nights, I do swear that I will, without respect of favor or friendship, love or gain, consanguinity or affinity, envy or malice, execute the laws of this isle and between party and party as indifferently as the herring's backbone doth lie in the middle of the fish."

The Bright Spots.

No man knows his strength or his weakness till occasion proves them. If there be some thoughts and actions of his life from the memory of which a man shrinks with shame, surely there are some which he may be proud to own and remember—forgiven injuries, conquered temptations (now and then) and difficulties vanquished by endurance.

Friendship.

Don't flatter yourselves that friendship authorizes you to say disagreeable things to your intimates. On the contrary, the nearer you come into relation with a person the more necessary do tact and courtesy become. Except in cases of necessity, which are rare, leave your friend to learn unpleasant truths from his enemies.

Beloved of the Gods.

Miss Mary Anderson (Mme. Navarro) in the play of "Pygmalion and Galatea" once turned with outstretched arms toward the audience. She was supposed to be appealing to heaven. "The gods will help me!" she cried. At once with one accord the "gods" of the gallery roared respouse, "We will!"

HOW TO STUDY PROPERLY.

Books Should Be Well Chosen and Read Carefully, Not Devoured.

Study is like a dinner. The viands must be well chosen and eaten slowly, not devoured, then well turned over in the mental stomach for awhile until with ease and comfort they are perfectly digested and furnish nutriment to the brain. Most students study without thought, which is like eating without digesting. Others read merely as a fad and soon forget all they may have learned.

The most satisfactory method of study is the digestive. It is the thorough one—the one that gives strength to the brain. Take the subject you are studying. Read a few lines or a few pages, as the case may be, then put the book down and think on what you have read. Turn it about in your mind from every standpoint. Do not accept it immediately. Argue for and against it in your mind. In other words, masticate it. You need not be at your leisure to do this. Do it in your walks, in your idle moments, at any time. When you have satisfied yourself on the subject go on with a little more in the same way. In a short time you will find yourself more a thorough student than if you had read all at a sitting. The best educated man in the end is the man who learns slowly, but surely.

COINED MONEY.

The Most Ancient Specimens Known Are Those of Aegina.

Throughout the early parts of Scripture as well as through the poems of Homer not a single passage occurs from which can be inferred the existence of stamped money of any description. It is agreed that the Egyptians had no coined money. Herodotus is authority for the statement that the Lydians were the first people who coined gold and silver. The Pairan Chronicle, however, ascribes the first coinage of copper and silver money to Pheidon, king of Argos, 895 B. C., in Aegina, which Aelian corroborates, and the best numismatic antiquaries agree in considering the coins of Aegina from their archaic form and appearance the most ancient known. They are of silver and bear on the upper side the figure of a turtle and on the under an indented mark. Coins are among the most certain evidences of history. In the later part of the Greek series they illustrate the chronology of reigns. In the Roman series they fix the dates and succession of events. Gibbon observes that, if all our historians were lost, medals, inscriptions and other monuments would be sufficient to record the travels of Hadrian. The reign of Probus might be written from his coins.

NOSE CHANGES.

They Are Gradual and Imperceptible, but Continuous.

Don't worry about the shape of your baby's nose if it is a snub nor be sure if it pleases you by its regularity that it will be the nose that will grow up with it, for scientists have observed that no feature changes more as life progresses. The length of the nose increases so much faster than its breadth that the snub nosed baby may evolve a long, even hooked nose. This change in the shape of noses is gradual and imperceptible, generally more expeditious in the male than in the female, correlated with various other characteristics, such as intellectual attainments or weak constitution, and producing different results. During maturity and senescence the bridge of the nose becomes more and more prominent, often more convex, so that extreme old age may even develop an aquiline nose, so that one need never despair of possessing a satisfactory nose at some period of his life if he only lives long enough. But, like so many other blessings that are deferred, the right kind of a nose may arrive too late to affect one's fortunes or happiness.

A Study In Wrinkles.

When George Rignold was playing Henry V. a friend visited him in his dressing room and remarked a large and handsome photograph of Wordsworth hanging on the wall. Said the friend, "I see you are an admirer of Wordsworth."

"Who's Wordsworth?" queried the actor.

"Why, that's his picture—Wordsworth, the poet."

"Is that old file a poet? I got him for a study of wrinkles."—London Answers.

Commercialized.

"This is indeed the age of commercialism," said the man of sentiments.

"What makes you think so?"

"Some of our statesmen never mention the American eagle any more and are continually applauding the work of the American hen."—Washington Star.

Making a Name.

"Yes, she made a name for herself."

"In what way?"

"Why, she used to be Ellen Cummins Brown. Now she is Aileen Comyns Browne."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Knowledge.

Knowledge will not be acquired without pains and application. It is troublesome and deep digging for pure waters, but when once you come to the spring they rise up and meet you.

The Engagement Was Recent.

He—I wonder if there is another girl in the whole wide world so sweet as my little sweetheart. She—What's that? How dare you think of another girl? I shan't speak to you for a week.

We know books by reading them, horses by handling them, houses by living in them and men by trusting them.

DIAMONDS.

If You Want to Make Them, Here Is the Process of Manufacture.

Would you like to know how to manufacture diamonds—real diamonds? The process is somewhat difficult, requiring time, patience and some outlay of money, but then consider the possible results! The diamond, we know, is simply carbon in a transparent crystalline form. It comes of humble parentage and is brother to the lump of coal.

Unlike easily crystallizable bodies, carbon is insoluble in all ordinary solvents, but molten metals will combine with it. Let the diamond maker choose iron for a solvent for charcoal, melting it in an electric furnace, allowing it to take up as much carbon as it can—in other words, saturate itself with carbon. The crucible containing the white hot metal should then be plunged into a bath of molten lead. The result will be that globules of iron will rise to the surface of the lead and are quickly cooled on the outer surface. Inside the hard crust the iron remains for some time in a molten condition, and as iron expands in solidifying the contents of these little globules receive a pressure unattainable by any other means. When the lead becomes solidified some bullets of iron will be found bound up in the mass. Dissolve with some powerful acid first the lead and then the iron, and a residue of carbonaceous matter will be found to contain tiny crystals—real diamonds. Any chemist with a well equipped laboratory can make diamonds in this way, but the largest of them will not be more than a fiftieth of an inch in diameter.

THE CULT OF SILENCE.

Truest Intercourse Between Congenial Spirits Is Without Words.

Now, to keep one's freshness there ought to be a zone of silence around every human being during some part of every day. It is significant that the great religions of the world have come out of silence and not out of noise, and the finest creative work is done, as a rule, in seclusion—not necessarily apart from men nor in solitary places, but away from the tumult and away from distracting sounds.

It is in silence alone that we come into possession of ourselves. The noises of life disturb us as a cloud of dust intervenes between the eye and the sky. There ought to be a cult for the practice of silence—a body of men and women committed to the preservation of the integrity of their souls by neither hearing nor making speech for certain periods, pledged to the culture of the habit of quietness.

Maeterlinck has pointed out the fact that the best things are never spoken, and the truest intercourse between congenial spirits is carried on without words. If we said less and thought more there would be far fewer things to explain, many sources of irritation would be dried up at the sources and the prime cause of irritation, which is nervous exhaustion or excitement, would be removed.—Outlook.

Long Beards.

Howell's "Welsh Celebrities" says: "Llewenn had the longest beard of which we have record. When loose and flowing it fell down over his horse's shoulders almost to the animal's knees. It was of a peculiar yellow or straw color, which was all the more curious, both his parents being dark haired mountain Welsh people. Years afterward the mountain people had proverbs which referred to this freak, they often using the expression, 'About as long as Howland's beard' or 'Yellow as the whiskers of Llewenn.'"

George Kilingworth, whom Queen Mary sent to Russia in 1555 as one of her agents to Czar Ivan the Terrible, had a beard five feet three inches in length, and Count Ruloff of Poland, 1697, rejoiced in the possession of a mustache which was so long that he could not touch the ends of it with his fingers.

Sulphur.

Sulphur is a solid, nonmetallic mineral which has been known from earliest ages. It is hard, yellow and brittle and has a most offensive odor. It is found in veins or beds, mostly near active volcanoes. The imported sulphur mostly comes from Solfatia, in Sicily, but large quantities are also procured from copper and iron pyrites. These minerals are heated, and the sulphur being volatile flies off in fumes, which are conveyed by means of pipes to a condensing room. If left in the powdery state in which it condenses it is called flour of sulphur. If melted and cast into bars it is called roll sulphur.

Written In Slang.

Matthew Henry's commentary on the Bible was written for the common people and in the slang of the day. In commenting on Judges ix he says: "We are here told by what acts Abimelech got into the saddle. He hired for his service all the scum and scoundrels of the country. Jotham was really a fine gentleman. The Sechemites were the first to kick him off. They said all the ill they could of him in their table talk. They drank health to his confusion."

Her Pocketbook.

"Oh, my!" exclaimed Mrs. Schoppen. "I've lost my pocketbook!"

"Never mind, dear," replied her husband. "I'll get you another pocketbook, and you can easily collect more dress goods samples."—Kansas City Independent.

Elegance.

Elegance is something more than ease; it is more than a freedom from awkwardness or restraint. It implies, I conceive, a precision, a polish, a sparkling, spirited, yet delicate.—Hazlitt.

All Run Down

THIS is a common expression we hear on every side. Unless there is some organic trouble, the condition can doubtless be remedied. Your doctor is the best adviser. Do not dose yourself with all kinds of advertised remedies—get his opinion. More than likely you need a concentrated fat food to enrich your blood and tone up the system.

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EXECUTION OF SPIES.

The Way the Death Sentence Is Carried Out In England.

The ceremony of disposing of a condemned spy in the English army always follows a definite precedent. The unfortunate man is surrounded by a detachment of infantry, and after he is provided with a pick and shovel he is marched off to a selected spot and ordered to dig his own grave. This done, the tools are taken from him and his eyes are bandaged. The attending chaplain reads portions selected from the burial service, and from the ranks of the escort twelve men are selected at random by the officer in charge. These men, having stacked their own rifles, are led to where twelve other rifles are awaiting them, six of which are loaded with blank cartridges. One of these is handed to each man, so that no one knows whether the rifle he holds contains a bullet or not and none can say for certain that the shot fired by him killed the prisoner. The firing party then marches to an appointed position. The commands "Present!" "Fire!" are given, and almost before the last word rings out the volley is fired and the spy falls into the grave he has dug. Nearly every man is more or less affected on being selected to form one of the firing party, and many men have been known to faint away on being singled out, while others are so overcome as to be scarcely able to pull the triggers of their rifles.

Gladstone at the Fair.

In the life of Lord Granville appears this of Mr. Gladstone. He "came over with Mrs. Gladstone and Lord and Lady Sydney, whose guest he was at Deal, because—you would not guess it in a thousand—because there was to be a fair that afternoon, and Mr. Gladstone wanted to try a merry-go-round. Indeed we all went after luncheon, and it was only on assuring him that the opposition papers would make fun of it next morning that Mr. Gladstone renounced a 'suree' on the merry-go-round, and he did his best to console himself by strolling into every booth, from the giant woman to the calf with eight legs. Every possible monstrosity was honored by the premier's visit, who seemed to enjoy himself more than the schoolboys to whom their dons showed the G. O. M."

Fishermen's Queer Ways.

Fishermen have queer customs. A few years ago the fishermen of Preston, Lancashire, used actually to go fishing on Sunday. It seems incredible, but they did. A clergyman of the town used to preach against this Sabbath desecration and pray that they might catch no fish. And they did not. But they found out how to make his prayers of no avail. The fishermen used to make a little effigy of the parson in rags and put this small "guy" up their chimneys. While his reverence was slowly smoked and consumed the fish bit—like anything!—London Fishing Gazette.

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