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Stonehenge Mystery to Students of the Past

Ancient and mysterious Stonehenge is located some nine miles from Salisbury, and near the little town of Amesbury, in Wiltshire, England. This circular formation of stones encloses what is commonly called the Altar stone. What its origin or purpose is time or research has not revealed, but it is obviously connected with some form of observation of the sun, possibly sun worship. It is generally believed to have been erected some 4,000 years ago, possibly by the tribe from the Continent which brought the idea of cultivation of land to England in the Bronze age. To the east of the Stone circle is the Hele stone or Friar's heel, over which at dawn on June 21—namely, at the summer solstice—the sun rises when viewed from the Altar stone. Other pointed stones mark the rise of the sun at the winter solstice and sunset at midsummer. At few places in England can the thoughts run riot to such an extent as in this circle of immense stones standing in solitude overlooking Salisbury plain. Pictures of human sacrifice and heathen rites spring readily to the imagination.

Baboon Formidable Foe When Incited to Fury

At night the South African baboon is a timorous creature, and as its sight in the dusk is far inferior to that of the leopard, the latter sometimes steals up to where the troop is sleeping, makes its pounce, and escapes with a shrieking victim. But the leopard does not invariably have the best of it. There are several well-authenticated instances of such a night marauder being surrounded and torn to pieces. Another enemy much dreaded by baboons inhabiting the warmer localities is the rock-python. But there are instances of even the python being destroyed by the combined fury of a troop. All snakes, whether poisonous or not, are equally feared by baboons. This is somewhat strange in view of the circumstances that the latter can at once distinguish between berries that are wholesome and those that are poisonous, even though they may never have seen them before. The hiss of a snake will reduce the most enraged baboon to a state of abject terror, and a dead snake placed in the vicinity of one will drive it almost distracted.

"Spoiled" Child Handicapped

Many parents feel that the first few years of a child's life are an unimportant twilight before the real dawn of personality and utterly ignore the importance of those early years for development, observes Clara Bassett in Hygeia Magazine.

Careful study of the spoiled child problem shows that such children do not outgrow their early habits, as parents often think they will. Many of them go through life with these attitudes and then develop mental and nervous breakdowns when they find they are not equipped to meet bravely the vicissitudes and responsibilities of adult existence.

Salt in History

Savage races have lived without salt, but history shows that wherever it has been obtainable, even at the cost of much time and money, men have struggled to obtain it. This is probably more because of the zest it gives to foods, than because of its own value as a food. The elements found in salt are usually present in sufficiently large quantities in the diet.

However, the addition of more or less large quantities of salt seems to do no harm to the average person; excessive consumption may affect the assimilation of the food.

So Simple

Mrs. Suburbs, who was absorbed in a romance of the Seventeenth century, suddenly looked up at her husband.

"George," she remarked, "listen to this: 'By my halidom,' exclaimed Sir Percival, 'it is past the hour of 12!' Now, what is a halidom, George?"

"What do you suppose it is?" he responded. "Doesn't the context tell you? Sir What's-his-name said it was past 12 by his halidom, didn't he? Well, I should have thought anybody could have seen that halidom was the make of his watch."

Sight Influences Handwriting

If the average handwriting of a person with normal vision is taken as a standard, that of the individual suffering from nearsightedness will be found to be much smaller and that of the farsighted individual much larger.

The nearsighted person does not realize that his writing is small, for he sees it enlarged, and the farsighted person does not know that he writes large, for his eyes reduce the image for him.

Much Lead Reclaimed

It begins to appear almost as if industry can use its lead and have it at the same time. Reclamation of waste lead, through the recovery of old lead pipe, battery plates, lead lining of acid vats and other such sources, has increased year by year, until, during 1927, according to bureau of mines figures, the total weight of the recovered metal, which can be reprocessed and used as new, was 41 per cent of the production of new metal for the year, which seems to be eliminating waste with a vengeance.

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WHY

Milk Is of Highest Value as Nourishing Food

Only humans are foolish enough to get dog-tired. Dogs should not be blamed with this error in overwork or overplay, which is responsible for the phrase, according to Walter Camp.

The pressure of modern business, the rush from the time that breakfast is hastily bolted and the 7:18 is caught on the run, all through the rush and strain of dodging automobiles and meeting the demands of high-pressure business is enough to leave any human being dog-tired, says Miss Lydia Broecker of the national dairy council

Our main hope, since most of us have to work, is for use to keep our bodies well nourished so that they may throw off fatigue poisons. Among our restorative foods is milk, which not only helps give us energy for carrying on during the day so that we can do our work without becoming so tired, but is also relaxing and nourishing for the night-time drink.

Why Zero Is Accepted as Symbol for Nothing

"Zero" is the "nought" of arithmetic and, as pretty nearly the whole world knows, it means "nothing."

Directly "zero" is derived from the Italiar "ezoro," but for the origin of the cipher, indicating the zero, we must go back to Biblical days.

Thousands of years ago the ancient Hebrews, when they went through certain religious ceremonials, wore around their waist a sort of a girdle.

This girdle was never unbuckled, but always slipped on and off, so that it constantly remained spherical in contour.

The name of this article was "ezor." And in the course of time, because of its unchanging shape and its significance, it became incorporated into the symbolical writing of the entire civilized world for the cipher.—Kansas City Times

Why "Four-Flusher"

A four-flusher, in common parlance, is a bluffer, braggart, or cheat. The term originated in the popular American diversion known as poker. In poker a flush consists of five cards of the same suit. If a player gets four cards of one suit and one card of another suit he has a four flush, also called a bobtail flush. Sometimes a player with a four flush pretends to have a full flush and attempts to drive out an opponent by betting heavy. This practice is perfectly legitimate in poker, but such a play is known as fourflushing. If he succeeds the other players never know what cards he held; if he is called he must show his cards and his bluff is exposed.

Why He Bought Airplane

In order to be able "to admire his crops from the sky," a Serbian peasant recently bought an airplane from a French aircraft firm. The man had seen his first plane two weeks before when one flew over his fields near the village of Silba, and he was so impressed that he at once went to an airdrome near Belgrade and asked to be shown a similar machine and have its operation explained. "I am rich enough to buy myself an airplane and admire my fields from above," he told the director of the airdrome from whom he ordered the plane. A crowd of admiring neighbors gathered at his farm to see the plane delivered.

Why Shamrock Is Honored

The shamrock (trifolium repens of botanists) is worn in the hat almost everywhere in Ireland on St. Patrick's day because tradition has it that when St. Patrick was preaching Christianity to the pagan Irish he used the three-leaved plant as a symbol of the Trinity. The trefoil is called shamrakh in Arabic, and was held sacred as emblematical of the Persian Triads. According to the natural historian Pliny, serpents are never seen upon trefoil and it prevails against the stings of snakes or scorpions. This is interesting, considering St. Patrick's connection with snakes.

Why Game Is Increasing

The value of game preserves is shown by the experience of the rangers at Glacier National park. In recent years, poaching, once the main problem of the rangers, has almost disappeared. The hunters now realize the value of the preserves for the propagation of wild life and find that protection of the herds within the park increases the quantity of game that later finds its way out into unprotected land where the hunter holds sway.

Why Egg Did Not Hatch

"Don't count turtle eggs before they're hatched," John Toomey, keeper of the reptile house in the Bronx (N. Y.) zoological gardens, advises. Mrs. Buster, from the Galapagos islands, laid an egg, the first in twenty-three years, and the keeper laid it away to hatch. Eight weeks later he unburied it and found it bad, just as bad as any egg can be at the end of eigth weeks. It had been slightly cracked.

Why Called "Bourbons"

Bourbon used to be applied to the old-fashioned Democrats who were charged with acting unmindful of past experience, like the Bourbon kings of France. The term corresponded somewhat to the "Old Guard" in the Republican party. Nowadays the term is seldom heard.—Pathfinder.

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