

RECALL DAYS OF SPLENDOR

Empty Palaces of Mogul Kings Serve Only to Bring to Mind Grandeur That Is Gone.

Should you ever feel inclined to verify tales of "The Thousand and One Persian Days," which usually begin with something like "Once upon a time there was a raja who sat upon a golden throne, and slept upon a pearl carpet, and built a golden-roofed pavilion for a beautiful queen," you may journey comfortably to India, then on to Delhi and Agra, and see the empty palaces of the Mogul kings that are very little changed save that they now reverberate mournfully to the footfall of western-shod feet, and their marble walls have been mellowed to the tint of old ivory by 256 years of Indian sun. So writes Eleanor Maddock in Asia Magazine.

You may walk among the colonnades of the great hall of audience inlaid with flowers of lapis lazuli, jade, topaz and cornelian that seem to grow upon the walls and burst into bloom on the very spot where rested Shah Jahan's "Peacock throne," a fortified four-posted bedstead of solid gold, with a pearl-fringe canopy, upon which the emperor sat daily to dispense justice, his turban ablaze with diamonds and his flowered tunic almost hidden by ropes of pearls. Behind him sapphires, rubies and emeralds glowed from the outspread tails of two peacocks, and over his head hung a parrot wrought from a single emerald, holding in its beak the Koh-i-nor diamond.

LIVES IN CONSTANT DREAD

At No Period of His Life Is the Zulu Free From the Fear of Witchcraft.

The Zulu baby is born into the fear of witchcraft; in the fear of witchcraft he grows up and when he steaks and is about to die, his one thought is that a spell has been cast upon him for which the charm cannot be discovered.

All his life long he dreads to meet in lonely places the "insvelabova"—an inhuman man, lacking only hair or fur to make him altogether a beast—a sort of beast in human form who rides backward on a baboon, ready to pounce upon and make medicine of the unwary traveler.

In mature manhood he suspects his neighbor, his friend, his brother, and even his wife of having dealings with makers of charms and poisons. He walks with an uneasy-feeling that an enemy may have put medicine in his path to harm him.

From every possible source, from earth and from sky, from river and from forest, from friend and from foe, he is continually apprehensive of an evil influence coming upon him and searching for a talisman to wear against it.—Dr. James B. McCord in Medical Missions.

Traditional Marriage Customs.

It was an ancient custom among the Scandinavians to drink methuegellin, or diluted honey, for 30 days after a wedding. In the island of Rhodes honey is still a factor in the marriage rites. After the ceremony the husband dips a finger in honey and traces a cross over the doorway of his home before

his bride enters, while the guests admonish the bride to "Be always sweet and good, as is this honey."

The wedding cake goes back to antiquity. One of the important features of the marriage ceremony among the Romans was the partaking, by both contracting parties, of a cake made of flour, salt and water. This was done in the presence of the high priest and ten witnesses.

The use of the wedding ring is almost universal, but in the country districts around Cadiz no ring is used. After the ceremony the groom shifts the flowers in his wife's hair from left to right, for to wear a flower over the right ear is to proclaim one's self a wife.

Castle Rock in Kansas.

One of the most interesting works of nature in Kansas from a geological standpoint is known as "Castle Rock," a natural formation located in Gove county, in the valley of the Hackberry, about ten miles from its mouth. This castellated mass is composed of a coping of limestone and the shaft of chalk and compact shale. Its unique formation was caused by the shales wearing away, the strongly cemented stone serving as a protection to the upper surface. In this way mountainous appearing masses are frequently produced, especially where streams cut their way through the hard stone into the softer materials below. Similar formations are met with in Ellis county which show isolated columns which rise from 20 to 70 feet in height.—Blackmar's History of Kansas.

Putting Reptiles to Sleep.

Monotonous sensory stimulation, one southern dealer in alligators has found, will quickly render the smaller reptiles unconscious. To demonstrate his uncanny control of his reptilian stock in trade, he places one of the smaller alligators upon its back. Kneeling besides it, he holds the wriggling body with one hand, while he gently strokes the underside of the jaw. Back and forth goes the hand until the squirming ceases and the limbs relax. Some say that the dealer temporarily suppresses the functions of the crocodilian cerebrum others, skeptical, maintain that he simply lulls the alligators to sleep.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Why "Actors Hate Cats."

Speaking at the International Women's Franchise club in London, Miss Horniman, the English theatrical manager, told some entertaining stories of theatrical experiences. Actors can stand a good deal, she said, but they hate a cat, for they know that as long as it is on the stage the audience can look at nothing else. Miss Horniman had some amusing stories of the Gayety cats. Trixie, who was killed on the scene of her public triumphs by the fall of the safety curtain, once spoiled the last act of "Hindle Wakes" by getting under a table where the actors could not see her, but the audience could, and cheerfully pretending to chase a mouse. Then strolling across to the stage fire, she turned from it with disdain and settled herself for warmth among the footlights. Another cat intruded into a quiet scene of tragic farewell and led the short-sighted lover on a futile chase among the overturning furniture.

MANAGED DRAGON BY WIRE

Opera House Manager Had Unique Idea for the Direction of Important Stage "Property."

Our Chinese friends would be interested to learn of the way "foreign devils" control dragons.

In one of the operas produced at the Metropolitan Opera house in New York the inside of the dragon, which is made of canvas and papier-mache, consists of two small boys, who are supposed to guide the beast's movements in accordance with the music. They are rarely equal to doing that correctly, even after rehearsal. A recent performance is stated to have been given without a single stage rehearsal, since no time could be found for the preparation of the opera. It was, therefore, more than ever necessary to have the occupants of the dragon's inside kept up to their business. The stage manager decided to install a telephone in the beast. It connected with the opera house switchboard. On one end was the stage manager, and at the other were two receivers strapped to the heads of the two boys, who received from moment to moment directions as to what they should do. The dragon under the circumstances covered himself with glory.

Spell of the Witch Doctor.

In the twentieth century, according to the report of forward movement survey, there are approximately 120 million people in Africa held in abject fear through the hundreds of thousands of witch doctors who alone are believed to have the power of "spelling out" the evil spirits. The theory of the African native regarding disease is that an enemy casts a spell which enters the body and it must either be spelled out or cast out and this is accomplished by the use of charms which often kill before they have the opportunity of proving their curative powers. The natives of South Africa, the survey finds, depend entirely on witch doctors and herb doctors. For 8½ million native people there are only twenty-three missionary doctors and nineteen nurses. Scattered among the millions, this little band of workers accomplishes wonders. But the sway of the witch doctors is practically unaffected.

Electric Incubator.

The electric incubator is said to be much safer, surer and more economical than the oil-heated apparatus. Current entering the incubator passes through resistance elements in the top of the box; these are arranged to distribute the heat evenly over the 75 eggs below. Double insulating walls prevent the escape of heat, while a thermostat keeps temperature constant. Ventilation is likewise automatic.

Meanest Yet.

Sales Manager—Well, Jobbie, how did that last prospect turn out? Vacuum Cleaner Canvasser—The original Mrs. Gaspard, the well-known miser's worst half! That dame let me demonstrate the machine till I made her best rug look like new and then all I got was a demand for a quarter of a dollar to pay for the electricity she estimated I'd used.—Buffalo Express.

Radio-Active Leas.

At least two kinds of lead exist, writes Prof. Theodore W. Richards in Science. One, the ordinary metal disseminated throughout the world; another, a form of lead apparently produced by the decomposition of uranium, radium being one of the intermediate products. If we leave out of consideration the probable inessential difference in radio activity, the two kinds are very closely if not exactly alike in every respect, excepting atomic weight, density and immediately related properties involving weight, such as solubility. Thorium lead appears to be a third variety, with similar relations. Shall we call these substances different elements, or the same?

Blessing the Alpine Ropes.

Every summer, at the beginning of the climbing season in the Swiss mountains, a solemn service is held among the guides, many of whom are godly men who know they take their lives in their hands when they ascend the Alps. So they bring their ropes with them and lay them at the foot of one of the mountains. Old and new ropes are piled in a heap, and then they are blessed by the pastor. Prayer is offered that the old ropes may still bear the strain safely and that the new ropes may prove equal to all the stress placed upon them. The guides are commended to the mercy of God that in their daily ascents they may be kept safe and that they may succor the travelers who trust in them.—F. H. Cheley in "Stories for Talks to Boys."

Whisky Called "Water of Life."

The art of distilling liquors is first mentioned by Albuquassen, an Arabian physician who lived in the tenth century. Whisky, "a potable spirit distilled from cereal grains," probably originated in Ireland, and its Celtic name was usquebatha (water of life) afterward contracted to usquebaugh and then to whisky. It was known as usquebaugh in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries both in Ireland and Scotland.

George Eliot the Lay Preacher.

A novelist who bases his art on clean-cut ethical formulas is bound to wane in popularity. For special reasons, he may make a strong appeal to his own generation and yet be neglected by the generation succeeding. George Eliot was the eloquent lay preacher of her age. Literary sermons like hers are now out of date. Readers do not care to be told what will happen if they do not do this or if they do that. Similarly Thomas Hardy is certain to suffer in fame.

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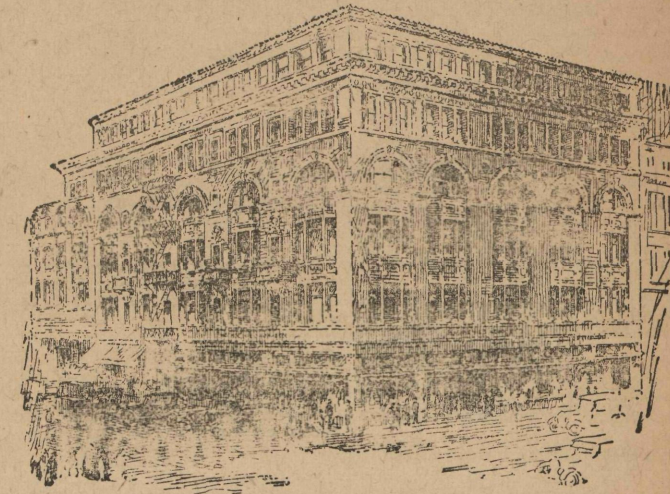
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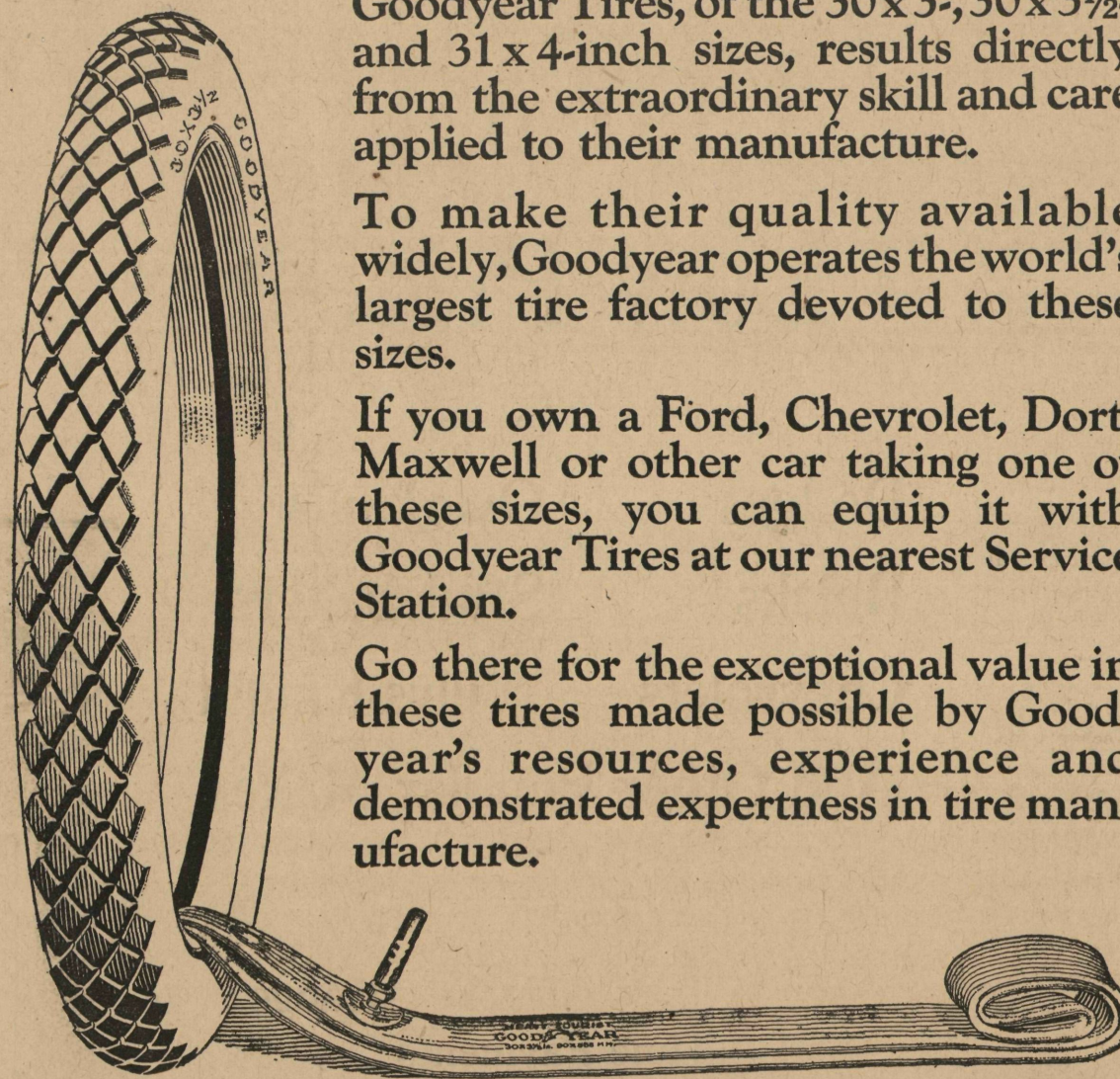
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