

ANIMAL LIFE.

In Maryland sparrows have been known to raise six broods in one year. In England there are seldom more than three broods.

Ostrich farms are profitable. Birds are worth \$100 apiece, and a good specimen yields about \$25 worth of feathers at a plucking.

Cats evince, as is well known, a curious emotional disturbance when in the neighborhood of valerian plant, of which they are very fond. It apparently produces in them a species of intoxication.

There are records of elephants that have lived for 200 years, and an age of 150 years is not regarded as so very old for an elephant. It takes about a quarter of a century to get the elephant to full maturity.

A French anatomist has analyzed the skeletons of 86 chimpanzees, gorillas and orang outangs and asserts that he has found in them bone diseases like those which afflict mankind and in about the same proportion.

He Was Satisfied.

A farmer entered an office in central New York and sent this message to a woman in Canada: "Will you be my wife? Please answer quick by telegraph." Although he waited the rest of the day, he got no answer, but the next morning he got a night dispatch, sent collect, but favorable. The operator in expressing his sympathy said, "Little rough to keep you in suspense so long."

"Look a-here, sonny," the farmer remarked, "I'll stand all the suspense. Any woman that'll hold back her answer all day to a proposal of marriage, jest so that she kin send it half rate at night, is economical enough to make up after I git her for all the loss of time and injury to feelin's I've suffered waitin'!"—Exchange.

Beef Tea.

It is the suggestion of a trained nurse, whose beef tea was most acceptable to a patient to whom in any previous illness it had been repellent, that the beef should be broiled before the juice is extracted. A thick, lean, juicy steak from the round is broiled over a clear fire perhaps two minutes on each side, after which it is cut up into small squares, put into a saucepan, covered with cold water and set on the back of the stove, where it should steep, not boil, for fully two hours. Remember not to add the salt until the dish is taken from the fire and serve it hot unless, of course, it is to be offered as cold or iced beef tea.

Tried and Convicted Too.

Politics in the west, even more than in the east, says the author of "Life and Sport In California," is a profession. I remember two men who were candidates for the office of district attorney. One had served before; the other was a young man conducting his first campaign.

The veteran was speaking in a small town, and after setting forth his own claims he spoke as follows of his opponent:

"I understand that Mr. X. is in every sense a worthy and honorable man, but I ask you to remember that he has never been tried—he has never been tried."

"That's so!" exclaimed a voice. "You've been tried, old man, haven't you—and convicted, too, you know?"

After due inquiry it appeared that the veteran had been, indeed, indicted for horse stealing and convicted. He was not elected.

Norway Fairies.

"Like the Japanese," writes William E. Curtis in the Chicago Herald, "the Norwegians are very superstitious, and as in Japan the forests, the mountains and the gorges are peopled with fairies. Nissen is the good fairy of the farmers. He looks after the cattle particularly, and if he is well treated they are healthy and the cows give lots of milk. To propitiate him it is necessary to put a dish of porridge on the threshold of the cow stable on Christmas morning. Whenever the family moves this invisible being goes along with them and sits on the top of the loads."

Reason For Dislike.

Wife—Mr. Black has no more taste in the matter of dress than a giraffe.

Husband—Why do you say that?

Wife—Because his wife had on the most beautiful gown last night, and when I admired it he said he thought it was dreadful.

Husband—But, my dear, he had to pay \$500 for it.—Detroit Free Press.

Of a Large Class.

Simkins—Bilkins junior strikes me as being a very promising young man.

Timkins—Yes; more promising than paying.—Chicago News.

Sensible.

Mr. Backward—Well—er—yes, since you ask me, I was thinking of consulting a fortune teller.

Miss Coy—To find out whom you will marry, eh?

Mr. Backward—Why—er—yes; I—Miss Coy—Why not ask me and save the fortune teller's fee toward the price of the ring?—Pearson's.

A TRAIN TAKES ITS OWN PICTURE.



Allen Ayrault Green, a young photographer of the University of Chicago, was called on recently to take a picture for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad of their fast Chicago-Denver train, "The Burlington's Number One," while in motion. After several unsuccessful trials with the usual apparatus, he made an electric switch, attaching it to the rail so that when the engine struck it the circuit was closed. This switch communicated through a metallic circuit to a set of dry cells, and thence to a shutter-release. The shutter-release was a complicated machine, consisting of a pair of low-resistance coils, acting as electro-mag-

nets on closing the circuit and attracting the armature, it in turn communicating with a series of levers so constructed as to minimize the resistance of the stout spring it was to release. The instant that the engine struck the switch it closed the circuit, and instantly the electricity communicated with the high-speed shutter and the picture was correctly registered on the center of the plate.

Thus the Burlington's train took its own picture while running at full speed, and it may seem odd, yet it is true, that a railroad locomotive has at last joined the great army of amateur photographers.

Keeping at It.

There is a very old but very good story about a boy who was engaged one winter day in putting a ton of coal into a cellar. His only implement was a small fire shovel. Noticing this, a benevolent old gentleman expressed surprise and commiseration.

"My son," said the gentleman, "you surely do not expect to put in all that coal with that little shovel?"

"Oh, yes, I do," replied the boy cheerfully. "All I have to do is to keep at it."

There is a lesson in this story for young and old, and it is exemplified in the lives of the great men of the world. It is a mistake to suppose that the best work of the world is done by people of great strength and many opportunities. "Keeping at it" is the secret of success.—Exchange.

Noncommittal About His Health.

Robert—Oh, I suppose Tom is all right, but he is so close mouthed. For instance, when I saw him today I asked him, "How are you?" and he gave me an evasive answer.

Richard—And what was that?

Robert—He said, "How are you?"—Boston Transcript.

The most disastrous times have produced the greatest minds. The purest metal comes of the most ardent furnace, the most brilliant lightning from the darkest clouds.

Simplicity Itself.

"There are only two points in success."

"What are they?"

"Work and keep other people from working you."—Chicago Herald.

FIVE LITTLE FOXES.

Among my tender vines I spy
A little fox named—By and By.

Then set upon him quick, I say,
The swift young hunter—Right Away.

Around each tender vine I plant
I find the little fox—I Can't.

Then, fast as ever hunter ran,
Chase him with bold and brave—I Can.

No use in trying—lags and whines
This fox among my tender vines.

Then drive him low and drive him high,
With this good hunter, named—I'll Try.

Among the vines in my small lot
Creeps in the young fox—I Forgot.

Then hunt him out and to his pen,
With—I Will Not Forget Again.

A little fox is hidden there
Among my vines, named—I Don't Care.

Then let I'm Sorry—hunter true—
Chase him afar from vines and you.
—Sunshine and Shadow.

Relieved.

"That must be a pretty bad toothache to swell your face like that. Why don't you see a dentist?"

"I did call on your friend, Dr. Pull-em, yesterday, and experienced great relief."

"You must be mistaken. Pull-em has been out of town for a week."

"I know. I felt relieved when I found that out."—Philadelphia Press.

No Established Credit.

Credit Man—Sorry, sir, but we cannot open an account with you because of your financial standing.

Rubbtton—What's the matter with it? Credit Man—Why, you've always paid cash.—Brooklyn Life.

The Highest Court.

The Denver Times says that when Tom Bagnell was justice of the peace at Altman, the highest incorporated town in the country, standing 12,000 feet above the sea level, he had occasion to fine a disorderly character \$10 and costs. The victim of the operation of justice objected to the finding of the court and announced that he would take an appeal.

"What? Appeal, would you?" asked the astonished court. "You can't come any o' that, now. This is the highest court in the United States, and you can't appeal."

An Alphabetical Ad.

The Schoolmaster has discovered this alphabetical advertisement in an issue of the London Times in 1842: "To widowers and single gentlemen—Wanted by a lady a situation to superintend the household and preside at table. She is Agreeable, Becoming, Careful,

FLOWER AND TREE.

Pruning to excess or too frequent or too long is weakening to the tree.

When a branch is removed, the cutting should be close, leaving no stub.

The apple, pear, quince and thorn can be grafted one on another, with varying success.

Wormy fruit in the orchard is best disposed of by the sheep. They eat all without making any choice, as pigs do.

Planting a few trees every fall or spring, as may be convenient, helps materially to keep up a supply of good fruit.

The cherry, peach, apricot, nectarine and almond require a light, dry and warm soil, but may be grown on loose, sandy soils.

Salt-peter is recommended as a quick acting fertilizer for flower beds that seem to be languishing, especially those that show small and pale leafage.

Peach and plum trees are both less liable to diseases when grown in the poultry yard. The trees will make a better growth and at the same time afford shade for the fowls.

Geraniums that have been used for summer bloomers will not flower again until the late spring months. Geraniums for winter blooming should be grown especially for that purpose by keeping the flower buds nipped off until August.

Love at First Sight.

We talk of love at first sight, but what shall we say of people who have never seen each other marrying and being not unhappy? "Courting," said an Irishman, "is like dying—sure a man must do it for himself."

In some countries—as, for instance, Sweden—this is not the case. There the marriages of young people are made for them by their parents, and they only begin to court when they are wedded. This sounds wrong and absurd in theory, but it often works well in practice. Indeed young people ask the advice of their parents much too little about that which is perhaps the most serious and important undertaking in life—marriage. Too many of them are like the young lady who said she hoped she might be cut into ten thousand triangles if she did not know more of everything than did her mother. So they consult no one and insist on gaining experience at a great cost to themselves.—Philadelphia Ledger.

To discover whether or not there is arsenic in your wall paper take a fragment of it and put it in a solution of ammonia. If arsenic is present, the liquid will assume a bluish tint.