

DEADLY SNAKES IN AUSTRALIA

Many Species Are There, Yet Fatalities From That Source Are by No Means Common.

"Snakes hereabouts?" I chanced to inquire. "Thousands," said the sawyer. "Deadly?" "They tell me, and I believe it," he replied, weighing his words, "that the death-adder and tiger-snake kill in half an hour. I'm told," he drawled on, in harmony with the droning weather, "that a dog won't last no more than twenty minutes. The death-adder, now, he's a slow, stupid beast, and won't move along. The tiger-snake comes at you; but the death-adder, he's a slow, stupid beast—lies still and bites when you tread on him. There's the black snake, too, and the brown snake—they're deadly; and a few others, like the tree snake, and maybe some more. I reckon the carpet-snake is the only snake we got in this country that can't do too much damage."

"Mortality high?" "What say? Oh! Well, I'll tell you, if you go hunting for snakes you're likely to be kept real busy; but if you mind your own business, and give the snakes a chance to mind their own business, and if you look out for them slow, stupid death-adders, you're likely to be let off. I heard tell of a kiddie being bit once. He put his hand in a rabbit-hole. "Did the child die?" "Ah, well, no; he took an anecdote." It had been a mild abrasion; for these snakes—the black snake and tiger snake and death-adder in particular—are more virulently poisonous than the rattlesnake or cobra. Yet death from snake-bite is by no means common in Australia.—Norman Duncan in Harper's.

HIS CARD OF IDENTIFICATION

Small Boy Unfortunately Presented it at Time When Young Lady Least Appreciated it.

She was entertaining her first beau in the parlor, and the occasion was a kind of breathless one, for she was fair and modest and flower-like and unaccustomed. She wore the roses he had brought her, and he kept his kid gloves on, for the call was formal. There was a ring at the doorbell. The caller was a small boy. Was her little brother at home? No. Little brother was not at home. She was not always so very polite about little brother, but this time she outdid even the book of etiquette. She was so sorry little brother was not at home. Who should she tell him had called to see him? Unfortunate question! "Well," said the small boy in tones that had nothing to conceal, and by way of identifying himself, "you may just tell him the guinea pig's got little ones—and then he'll know who it is that's called."

Rattlesnake's Age.

The general belief that the number of its rattles is a true guide to the age of a rattlesnake has small foundation in fact. According to Mr. Elwin R. Sanborn of the New York Zoological park, a very large snake may have few rattles, and a small snake twice as many as the big one. A rattlesnake frequently loses rattles through violent contact with rocks or bushes—a loss that nature replaces at the rate of about three segments a year. The baby rattlesnake has a tiny button where his rattles will ultimately be. Thus, according to the usual theory, at the end of the first year he will appear to be three years old, or perhaps three years and a half, if the button is considered as the beginning of a new rattle. Probably the number of the rattles increases for a certain number of years, remains stationary for another period, and then decreases as the snake grows old. That is the course of growth and decay in the horns and antlers of hooved animals.—Youth's Companion.

Canine Newsdealers.

Two Chicago dogs—an Irish terrier and a water spaniel—the property of a successful newsdealer of that city, are proving themselves very useful to their master. If the latter goes to lunch, or has to leave his stand for a time, the two watchful animals sell newspapers for him. "Rex," the Irish terrier, perches himself on the stand and grips between his teeth a big calash pipe and a copy of a newspaper, while "Brownie," his partner, takes up his position on a little soapbox beside the stand and holds in his teeth a little "plug" hat for the safekeeping of the pennies. When a passerby buys a paper "Brownie" sits up to receive the coin. Both of the dogs seem to have a fierce as well as a sharp eye to business, and their master places great faith in them.—Wide World Magazine.

Must Not Whistle in Russia.

In certain cities of Russia street whistling by civilians is a penal offense, the privilege being reserved for the police; who exercise it, however, not in order to make tunes with their mouths, but to send signal blasts to each other. The whistling habit being hereditary, it soon disappears, and in these cities no difficulty is experienced in dealing nowadays with the few who offend.

COLONY HAD ITS DARK DAYS

Prosperous Sierra Leone Gave Little Promise of Being a Success When it Was Started.

The first settlement in Sierra Leone, the prosperous British colony on the west coast of Africa, was made in 1786. At that period London swarmed with free negroes living in poverty and on the verge of starvation, and Dr. Smeathman's scheme for sending them to Africa to found a colony was accepted as the best solution of the difficulty. The first shipload of colonists consisted of 400 negroes and sixty whites, the latter principally women of bad character. Although land for the colony had been purchased from the native king, the Africans were not friendly, and a hostile attack, together with the shiftlessness of the colonists, almost brought the venture to ruin. In 1791 the survivors were removed to a new settlement, and in 1793 the population of the colony was increased by the introduction of 1,200 negroes from Nova Scotia and the Bahamas. In 1794 the settlement was again transferred to Freetown, now the capital of the colony and the greatest seaport on the west coast of Africa. In the early days the government of the idle blacks was no sinecure, and Sydney Smith remarked, not without truth, that Sierra Leone always had two governors—one just arriving and the other just leaving. The soil of Sierra Leone is exceedingly fertile, but few white men are able to live there.

SOME "DUTIES" ON THE SIDE

Village Postmaster Had Other Affairs to Attend to Besides Those of His Uncle Sam.

A conversation, printed in the Buffalo News, seems to indicate that in some communities the most burdensome duties of the postmaster are not always those that the government regulations prescribe. Joe Henderson stamped into the postoffice.

"Mornin', Mr. Morely." "Mornin', Joe!" "Has Tom Warden been in fer his mail yet?" "No."

"Will you be here when he comes?" "Yes."

"Well, when he comes, will you tell him that on his way from the cheese factory I wish he'd stop and get that shirt of Herman Langer's and take it down to Fred Wilkins, and tell Fred I said he could have it fer that single harness even up, if he'll fix up that bridle and throw in them russet lines 'stead of the old black ones; and if he won't swap, tell Tom to bring the shoot down to my place, and put it in the extra pen, and be sure and shut that door to the hen house, or all the chickens'll get out. Sure there ain't no mail? Mornin', Mr. Morely!" "Mornin', Joe!"—Youth's Companion.

Making the Best of a Pest.

A farmer in the parish of Matland, Nova Scotia, recently came across a skunk's nest that had three tiny young ones in it. The little skunks were only a day or two old, and instead of ruthlessly destroying them, the farmer picked them up and carried them home.

The family cat had been raising a litter of four kittens, three of whom the farmer had drowned, and after a few suspicious sniffs, she consented to adopt the little skunks in place of the lost kittens. The skunks did not suckle in quite the same way as the kitten, and it was interesting to watch Tabby push and box them into position. She soon got them in excellent order, and pussy and her quaint family afford lots of amusement for the children of the neighborhood. The farmer intends to make his find the nucleus of a skunk farm, and when the success of the fox farms of the maritime provinces is considered, it appears possible at least that he will find the venture profitable. Skunk is at present among the most valuable of furs.—Youth's Companion.

Captain's Will.

"It's the office boy," said the captain of a great liner, "who has taken the romance out of seafaring. Steam had nothing to do with it. In the old days the master of a steamer was a great man he stood almost as high socially as did officers of the navy. Now he has to face an impudent little whelp of a boy when he goes to the owners' office at the end of a voyage. At sea, the captain is the absolute master, but in the office the boy is supreme. He looks the captain over and then grunts: 'Sit down; he's too busy to see you now. So the captain cools his heels while later comes march past him. He goes through that on every trip, and yet he dare not quit his ship for fear he may not get another. I can find you 50 captains who had rather stay on the bridge through a No. 1 gale than face the little jeering devil in the owner's office."

Prompt Cure for Anemia.

Towns with sealing wax factories have no difficulty in getting girl labor cheap. Girls employed in the resin department of sealing wax factories are probably the plumpest and healthiest class of girl workers. Anemia, that disease from which the majority of young women suffer more or less, is unknown among them, except in the case of those who take on the work in order to cure their anemia. And in these cases cures are certain and rapid. Local doctors recommend the sealing wax cure so strongly that in many cases the girls offer their services free.

Estimating Loss by Smoke.

England is making an organized attempt to measure, by means of instruments standardized by the smoke abatement committee, the extent of the soot and dust existing in the atmosphere of several large towns. The instrument to be used follows the principle of the rain gauge, a given area being exposed to catch all solid matter that either falls by gravity or is borne down by rain. This is collected in a glass receiver placed beneath a duct leading from the collecting surface. The receiver will be removed once a month and replaced by a fresh one.

Full Explanation.

The Germans have a way of making compound nouns and sentences with the verb two or three pages further on, which to the student of Teutonic languages is somewhat perplexing. The six-year-old daughter of a friend of mine, however, can go the Germans one better. While walking with her mother the other day, she bowed to a young woman.

"Who is that?" asked her mother. "Why, don't you know?" explained the small daughter. "She is the little girl-with-red-hair-who-sits-next-to-me-at-school's-mamma."—Exchange.

For Left-Handed Persons.

Enterprising manufacturers make various articles for the special benefit of left-handed people. Besides scissors adjusted for their use, you can buy left-handed screws, gimlets and other tools. And, most thoughtful of all contrivances to minister to their physical peculiarity, corkcorks are twisted the wrong way, as a right-handed person would think for left-handed butlers and waiters.—London Chronicle.

Beyond All Regulation.

No labor union has ever been organized that could regulate the wages of sin.—Detroit Journal.

Medical.

"Mornin', Mr. Morely." "Mornin', Joe!" "Has Tom Warden been in fer his mail yet?" "No."

"Will you be here when he comes?" "Yes."

The Weary Way

DAILY BECOMING LESS WEARISOME TO MANY IN BELLEFONTE.

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As to Love.

"Is love nice?" one little girl questioned another. "It depends," was the answer, given by a member of a large family of older brothers and sisters. "It's nice when you love your mother, but when you love other young men and women it's hard on the rest of the family."

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