

MARKED CHANGE IN OPINION

Naturalists Claim That Ideas Held by Former Colleagues Were Based on Wrong Conclusions.

Naturalists are not pinning their faith to all the theories of the Darwinians, as they were a few years ago. They are ready to discard any theory as soon as it is demonstrated to be incompatible with facts. One of the latest ideas to be cast into the discard is that every part of a plant or of an animal had a definite value and played a part in securing its survival.

This change in attitude is well illustrated by an article in the Journal of Heredity in which the editor expresses the opinion that the extrafloral nectaries found on cherries, cowpeas and other legumes, castor beans, ferns, etc., "just happen;" they have no particular reason; once they remain, for they are of no disadvantage.

Nectaries are the glands that secrete nectar. They are found in most flowers, but in many are also found on the leaf stems. Many theories as to their use have been advanced, but long experimentation has proved each of these theories to be erroneous.

"We can hardly avoid the conclusion in many cases," writes the editor, "that they have no vital function and that the plant would probably get along just as well without them," although he admits that it is "dangerous for man to assume that he can understand all the ways of Nature and decide by his own standards whether or not a certain structure is of value to a plant."

FROM SEVEN TO THIRTEEN

Said to Be Age When Spirit of Recklessness Especially Dominates the Child.

The motor development of the child from the age of seven to thirteen, says Philip Davis in his book "Street Land," is far greater than its mental development.

The thirst for adventure, for discovery, for taking chances is the strongest characteristic of this age.

The greatest risk, the more it satisfies certain children's unconscious calls for acts and daring and courage.

In illustration, Mr. Davis tells of discovering two boys swinging from telephone wires on which they had climbed.

"You may be electrocuted," he warned them.

"That's what we want," one of them answered grandly.

Co-operation on the part of teachers, parents, police and public service companies, the author says, will to some extent solve the social problem presented by this spirit of recklessness among young children.

The Mirror and the World.

The glass reflects the features of him who looks therein. Smile is returned for smile or tears for tears. With the world, as with the glass, one finds what he brings to it. Is a man suspicious and looking for evil? He will meet it on every hand. Does he seek goodness? He will find it all about him, lurking in unexpected places. The traveler intent on watching for obstacles or enemies misses the wayside flower, the song of the bird, the music of the brook, the smile of a child. If he is on the lookout for evil it seems to meet him and the good is unseen. Are you possessed of fear? You see danger in every shadow; you hear threats in the wind. Smile on the glass. Smile on the world. Hope and fear not. Believe in good and expect good in others and you will find it. Look for sunshine, look for joy, look for love and kindness. Do not miss the good while repining over wrongs, real or fancied. Be yourself what you would see in the mirror. Be yourself what you would find in the world.—Milwaukee Journal.

Clever Borrowing.

The college stadium is but another instance of the modern adaptation of ancient devices to twentieth century needs. In many things the so-called civilized nations of our day have excelled the ancients of Greece and Rome, and in many other things they have not improved much on what had been accomplished some two thousand years ago. In science, discovery and invention, especially in regard to things material and utilitarian, we have undoubtedly outstripped them; but in poetry, philosophy, painting, sculpture, architecture—in short, in the realm of the arts—we have made but little progress, and that not on particularly original lines. Their works are still serving as our models, although occasionally we do succeed in expanding their ideas to fit our own larger needs, and the modern stadium is a case directly in point. In this instance we have borrowed both the idea and the name.

Taking to the Woods.

Mrs. Flatbush—"I see Sweden is being urged to pass a law giving women the right to propose marriage."

Mr. Flatbush—"Well, I only hope the woods in Sweden are convenient to the towns."

—They are all good enough, but the WATCHMAN is always the best.

RECORD IN FINDING DISTANCE

Longest Line Measured by Triangulation in Canada Said to Be 135 Miles.

The longest distance ever measured in Canada by means of the triangulation system was accomplished by the Canadian geodetic survey in the work in which it was engaged in outlining the western boundary of the Dominion. One of the distances measured by the triangulation method was 135 miles in length. By the measurement of one side of a triangle and the reading of the angles on the transit at the two ends of the measured line—which angles are formed by taking a sight at the distant point—the side of the triangle required to be measured can be found.

In carrying out this feat it was necessary to work at night and to use powerful acetylene lamps to find the point 135 miles distant. The transit or telescope is perched high on a mountain side in order to overcome the curvature of the earth's surface. In a distance of 60 miles it is necessary to have an elevation of 2,000 feet in order to see the point at which the instrument is sighted. In 135 miles the elevation is correspondingly greater. This is perhaps the second largest line ever measured by this method. The record is held for measurement across the Mediterranean between Spain and the northern shore of Africa, a distance of more than two hundred miles.

IOLANTHE IN DIRE PLIGHT

Excellent Reason Why She Could Not Appear When Her Cue for the Stage Was Given.

Amateur theatrical companies are proverbially courageous, and perhaps that is the reason why the Puddlecombe Theatricals selected "Iolanthe" as the means by which they would astonish the natives. As every lover of Gilbert and Sullivan is aware, one of the most effective scenes in the opera is the rising of Iolanthe from the bed of a beautiful river, and it seemed that this scene would go particularly well. The queen and fairies had sung their welcome well, the limelight was full on.

"Iolanthe! Come, Iolanthe!" sang the fairies.

But Iolanthe did not appear. The queen waved her wand frantically, and the fairies anxiously repeated:

"Iolanthe! Come Iolanthe!"

It was a tense moment, and the excitement had communicated itself to the audience. Again the invitor was repeated, and then a petulant voice from beneath the water's silvery surface was heard:

"Oh, do be quiet!" it said. "Can't you see I'm caught on a nail?"

Sea Moss.

Sea moss is a term popularly applied to any of the polyzoa, which are compound marine animals, several of which share a common horny skeleton, or polyzoary, which is plantlike in form. According to the bureau of fisheries, several hundred thousand pounds of these skeletons have been imported annually from Europe, chiefly from France and Germany, for decorative and millinery purposes, and the supply has now been practically cut off by the war. It therefore seems opportune to develop a domestic industry, as sea mosses, probably equal in quality to those heretofore imported, are said to be abundant on our coasts, especially in New England. Those with large bushy fronds are the most valuable.

Eclipses Occur in Series.

All eclipses occur in series, the first one of which takes place at one of the poles and the last at the opposite pole. The whole number in the series of lunar eclipses is completed in a period of about 370 years while the entire series of solar eclipses covers a period of 1,200 years. Yet the time of the beginning of any of these eclipses, and the path of totality or partial obscuration can be calculated to the moment or the mile. This is a matter difficult to explain to the amateur in language to be easily understood. The statement of the fact is sufficient. To ordinary students or observers the reasons for totality or partial obscuration are much more interesting, simply with the passing of each year.

Amazing Appetites.

If a baby had the appetite of a young potato beetle it would eat from 50 to 100 pounds of food every 24 hours. If a horse ate as much as a caterpillar, in proportion to its size, it would consume a ton of hay every 24 hours. A caterpillar eats twice its weight of leaves every day; but a potato beetle devours every day at least five times its weight of foliage, every bit of which represents just so much money to the farmer.

The most destructive of all insects, however, is the grasshopper, which, when in good health, consumes in a day ten times its weight of vegetation. No wonder that whole districts are devastated by its multitudinous swarms.

Mean Old Thing.

"That fellow Tompkins is a pretty slick proposition."

"What has he done now?"

"He buys all his cigars at a department store and has them put on his wife's charge account, and then when the first of the month comes around he calls her down for running up such extravagant bills."

PRaising the Luscious Pie

Writer With a Subject Worthy of His Pen Dilates in a Rhapsody Worth Reading.

Let us celebrate the gastronomic poem of the age—the pie. It graces each season, but most especially is it dedicated unto midsummer and the time of berries, black, red and blue. The pie is both friend and foe, comforter and avenger. It is mighty in the mightiest. It can mercilessly slay, and it can soothe and assuage the drooping spirit. It is a poem both lyric and elegiac—singing the sheer pleasures of the senses and again, perchance, the pains thereof. Dead-ly is the pie when overeaten, but gracious, yea, and beneficent, when partaken of in due measure and in reverential awe of the lawful gastric processes.

"My blessings on the head of him who first invented sleep," sighed Sancho Panza on a memorable occasion. Be ours on the head of him who first invented pie. May he dwell forever on blessed isles of pie among the cherry orchards of Elysium. May his joys delight in minceeat, pumpkins, the juicy squash, the tooth-staining blueberry, the pippin apple and oodles of lemon custard.

"Something felicitous and fruity between two crusts"—that is pie. Long may it wave! Begin at one corner of the crust and eat judiciously along the

outer crust in order that something felicitous and fruity may remain, like wine, the best at the last.

Let us heartily rejoice that it is our good hap to dwell within the great New England pie belt, and not a thousand miles from certain justly celebrated pie foundries.

Give us liberty, or give us death. But, falling that, give us pie.—Boston Globe.

Declared by Scientists Who Ought to Know to Be Many Millions of Years Old.

The discovery of splinters millions of years old has been made by a professor of paleontology at the University of California. The splinters are neither decayed nor petrified, but retained the grain and distinct markings of the California redwood, and it is even possible to whittle shavings from the larger splinters. The discovery of these splinters was made at Mussel Rock, California, a bank of rock about twenty miles out of San Francisco. This stratum of rock offers an excellent opportunity for the study of rock formations, and it was while on a trip of this kind that the splinters were found embedded in the sandy base of the rock. Furthermore, these splinters were contained in a stratum which had sunk under the sea and had been afterward raised and turned over in a different position so that the redwood trees were in a horizontal position instead of vertical.—World's Advance.

Groceries.

Groceries.

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