

ODD BELIEFS OF JAPANESE

Popular Superstitions Have Mostly Sprung From Moral Precepts and Are Quite Harmless.

There are many popular, as distinguished from religious, superstitions in Japan. These originally sprang from mostly moral precepts and are quite harmless. They prevail more widely among people in the rural and mountain districts than among city dwellers and among the older and ignorant classes than among the young and educated groups. Some of these superstitions are:

At a marriage ceremony a dress of purple color is taboo, lest the mutual love of the bride and groom be soon lost, as purple is a color most liable to fade.

If while a person is very ill a cup of medicine be upset by accident, it is a sure sign of his recovery; he needs medicine no longer.

Fire is the spirit of the god Kojin. It is supposed to have a purifying effect and must be respected. To step on fire, to throw refuse in it, will cause the wrath of the god and hence a calamity. The bore is not unknown in Japan, and the Japanese are pestered with visitors who sit their welcome out and drive their hosts into a frenzy of eagerness to get rid of them. The Japanese recipe of getting rid of them is as follows: Go to the kitchen, turn the broom upside down, put a towel over it and fan it lustily. The tedious visitors will soon depart.

Japanese babies and children are not allowed to look into mirrors, for if they do, when they grow up and marry they will have twins.

When measles, chickenpox or whooping cough prevails in a neighborhood and parents do not wish to have their children become infected they put a notice on the front door stating that their children are absent.

The Yellow World.

It is easy to see why China's imperial color is yellow, writes a correspondent from Yangste river. Her rivers are yellow, her long plains are yellow—especially in a famine year such as this, and as for her seas—the boundaries of her world—so desert-yellow is their color that a string of camels crossing them would look more in keeping than a string of junks. And so one can understand why the very heart of the heart of China, the Imperial city, should be like a shimmering lake of golden tiles within her lotus-besieged walls. Even against the evidence of my own eyes I cannot believe that the Great Wall is built of solid ordinary stones laid one upon the other. Rather it seems moulded out of the stuff of which the mountains themselves were made, long ago when the world was plastic and empty of all save possibilities. There never was so sinuous a thing as the Great Wall built by men, I think, so sinuous and so aspiring.

Does Away With Long Climb.

Something unusual has been accomplished in the completion of the entrance to the Southwest museum, in Los Angeles. The building is situated on a high hill and until recently it has been necessary for pedestrians to make a long and laborious climb up the hill to reach the main entrance. Now, however, the climb has been obviated by an artistic as well as practical improvement. A tunnel, 224 feet long, was bored into the hill and ended in a large octagonal waiting room, on one side of which is a twelve-passenger electric elevator of the automatic type. The elevator makes a climb of 108 feet, delivering the passenger into the main hall of the museum.

Copper's Value as Alloy.

The use of a small proportion of copper in all iron and steel products exposed to air and moisture is advised by D. M. Buck, metallurgical engineer of the American Sheet and Tin Plate company. The use of 0.15 to 0.25 per cent. in normal open-hearth or Bessemer steel greatly lessens corrosion, but heretofore the use of copper steel has been chiefly confined to sheet metal. It is estimated that the life of the sheet metal is at least doubled by the addition. Copper melts at about 700 degrees F. below the average tapping temperature of the steel, and it diffuses readily through the metal without tendency to separate out afterward.

Savages Give to Missions.

Two hundred boys from the Negs Hill tribes of Assam went to the war in France, and all were baptized into the Christian church while in the army. Upon returning home every one donated a month's pay to mission work as a thank offering for their preservation.

A Come-Back.

"I wouldn't be a fool if I were you!" "That's the only sensible thing you've said during this discussion. If you were I you certainly wouldn't be a fool."

The Useless Bell.

"The bell on your house has been out of order for weeks. I should think you would have it repaired." "What's the use? Nobody ever rings it any more. Our friends just sit out in their cars and honk their auto horns until we come to the door."

RICH ASIA MINOR PROVINCE

Smyrna, Blessed With a Fertile Soil and Temperate Climate, Is Pleasant Dwelling Place.

The modern province of Smyrna is the most favored of all the provinces of Asia Minor. It contains three of the most considerable rivers of the country, including the Meander, whose serpentine course has given the English language an expressive verb. Fertile soil and temperate climate have added to the region's attractions, while the possession of a port and city—the city of Smyrna—unequaled by any other in Asia Minor has contributed another immeasurably important asset. Though imperfectly tilled during its control by Turkey, the province of Smyrna has nevertheless been noted for its fine fruits. For a long time it has furnished the best figs and raisins which reach the markets of Europe.

Poets and travelers have sung and told of the beauties of the city of Smyrna throughout the ages. The nucleus nestles in the lowlands about its harbor, and behind, the city rises tier above tier against the neighboring highlands. Unlike many cities that have survived for long ages, Smyrna has retained the same name from the dawn of history. This city should be dear to the heart of the modern feminist, for it took its name from an Amazon who is reputed to have played an important part in its early life.—National Geographic Society Bulletin.

FORTUNE AWAITS LUCKY ONES

Prospecting for Radium in Madagascar Is Latest Lure Held Out to the Enterprising.

The exciting days of prospecting in Cripple Creek or Alaska may be over, but anyone who is looking for experience and is willing to suffer a few discomforts for the chance of gaining a fortune can do so in Madagascar, according to Secretary LaCroix of the French Academy of Science, who has completed an exhaustive study of radium-bearing deposits there.

M. LaCroix says that millions probably are there awaiting to reward the patient searchers who are able to start out with the proverbial shoe string as far as finances are concerned, but it is recommended that intending prospectors take along a few camera dry plates, developing outfits and, if possible, a gold leaf electroscope, although the latter is not absolutely essential.

The principal radioactive mineral in Madagascar is known as betaphite and is brownish-black in color with irregular radium content. But even if only one milligram is obtained from each ton of mineral examined, it will mean 200 francs to the prospector, while certain deposits are so rich as to assay as high as 15,000 francs a ton.

Patching the Czar's Trousers.

In his recently published memoirs Count Witte, a member of the old Russian regime, relates that Alexander III's prudence in government expenditure was matched by his personal thrift: "Alexander III was extremely economical with his wearing apparel. I had a curious proof of this when I accompanied the emperor on one of his railway trips. Since I found it impossible, on account of my responsibility, to sleep of nights, I would often catch glimpses of his majesty's valet mending the emperor's trousers. On one occasion I asked him why he didn't give his master a new pair instead of mending the old so often. 'Well, I would rather have it that way,' he answered, 'but his majesty won't let me. He insists on wearing his garments until they are threadbare. It is the same with his boots.'"

Huge Stone in Roosevelt's Honor.

The greatest chunk of stone ever quarried or transported in the United States or anywhere else on earth is going to be hewn and brought to Washington for the monumental Theodore Roosevelt national memorial. The memorial is to take the form of a lion, some 36 by 40 feet in dimensions, and it is to be carved by Carl Ethan Akeley out of a solid block of rock. Where the stone is to come from appears not yet to be determined. One authority suggests it may be necessary to build a special railroad and equipment to bring it to Washington. The memorial will be the biggest job in stone, it is said, since the sphinxes were set up on the plains of Egypt.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Floats for Boats.

S. E. Van Horn of Manhasset, N. Y., is the inventor of a scheme for making boats unsinkable. The safety boat is provided with a couple of umbrellas of rubberized fabric, one on the port and the other on the starboard side, attached to the gunwale by a sort of outrigger.

When not in use the umbrellas are collapsed and take up little room, the outriggers being swung alongside of the craft, out of the way. But in case of danger the outriggers are hastily swung outward into position, the umbrellas spreading automatically.

Harrowing Experience.

"What's the trouble?" asked the second assistant sporting editor. "I've just had a call from a woman who had written some 'free verse,'" said the Sunday editor, who was shaking all over. "That ought not to upset you." "Ah!" groaned the Sunday editor. "But she read it to me and threw in a lot of gestures."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

FIGURED IN HISTORIC PAST

Representation of Monarch of the Time of Abraham Now in Pennsylvania Museum.

In the dim old days of the patriarch Abraham people looked very much as they do now, judging from the oldest representation of human figures unearthed by the toiling brotherhood of archeologists. Two striking figures, one standing and one seated, are included in the elaborate design of the clay seal, or "postage stamp," which has excited the enthusiasm of Dr. Legrain, curator of the Babylonian section of the University of Pennsylvania museum.

Dr. Legrain has figured out the inscriptions of the little tablet as indicating that it dates from the period when "Ur of the Chaldees," mentioned in Genesis in connection with the history of Abraham, was a flourishing kingdom. And he finds reason to believe that the seated figure, decorated with fountains of beautiful acrocoron plating, is a portrait of his majesty Ish-Sin, the last king of Ur and possibly an intimate friend of the Father of Israel.

To the modern eye both figures are remarkably well drawn and lifelike in attitude, especially considering the fact that they were modeled in clay on a very small scale. Dr. Legrain thinks the tablet served the double purpose of a seal and a postage stamp on a sack of money forwarded to a banker named Shulpae by his reverence the high priest of the temple of Ur, at which Abraham worshipped.

TOO HEALTHY FOR MEDICINE

People of Tristan da Cunha Throw Supply Left by British Cruiser Into the Sea.

The island of Tristan da Cunha is described as "an unspoiled haven of rest for the weary soul, a mecca for those who long for relief from worries of life," by the chaplain of the British cruiser Dartmouth, which has just returned from a visit to that isolated spot.

"No need to worry over money there, for there is none," said the chaplain. "There are no taxes, no doctors, no lawyers, no clergymen, no policemen, not even a head man. Newspapers and mail arrive, with luck, about once every two years."

"There is not even any medicine, for the latest supply of remedies was thrown into the sea by the inhabitants, who are remarkably healthy. Epidemics are unknown."

"Tristan is a British possession in the south Atlantic, between South Africa and South America. Its snow-capped peak towers nearly 8,000 feet above sea level. It is only 21 miles in circumference. The nearest inhabited place is St. Helena, 1,200 miles away. The only habitable portion of it is a tongue of fertile land at the foot of the precipitous cliffs."

The Wrong Number.

Mrs. New Auto owner, all excited, called her husband over the telephone at his office, and announced: "The auto tags came by mail, but we will have to send them back. They sent the wrong number." Business of considerable questioning on the business office end of the telephone.

Then: "Well, they're not the same numbers we had last year, so I thought they had made a mistake."

Explanatory: The machine had come into possession of the family late in the year, a license number was obtained that had six figures and the husband got in early for a 1921 license hoping to obtain a smaller number and he got it.

Anyway, the wife had a good laugh at her own expense when the husband arrived home that evening. And she is learning something each day about autos.

Pellagra and Income.

After a three-year study of pellagra in the cotton-mill villages of South Carolina, the United States public health service shows that pellagra varies inversely with the family income in this locality. As the income fell the disease was found to increase and to affect more members of the same family. As the income rose the disease decreased, and was rarely found in families that enjoyed the highest incomes, even though this highest was still quite low.

A recent statement given by one of the large life insurance companies indicates that the food standards of Southern wage earners must have improved remarkably of late, for the death rate from pellagra has fallen from 6.7 per 100,000 in 1915 to 2.3 in 1919.

Much Gasoline Wasted.

About one-third of the gasoline used in automobiles is wasted. This is the conclusion reached by A. C. Fieldner of the United States bureau of mines, from experiments under traffic conditions to determine the air pollution of the vehicular tunnels under New York city. The waste is chiefly due to too rich gasoline mixture. It is estimated that an improved and practically automatic carburetor might save American automobilists \$34,000,000 a year.

Free Medicine.

A prominent city man, who is as parsimonious as he is wealthy, is very fond of getting advice free. Meeting a well-known physician one day, he said to him: "I am on my way home, doctor, and I feel very seedy and worn out generally; what ought I to take?" "Take a taxi," came the curt reply. —Tit-Bits, London.

GROWTH INFLUENCED BY RAIN

Observations of Travelers Show Remarkable Difference in Vegetation of Tropical Forests.

Tropical forests are divided by Hanna into those having months of less than six rainy days and those having no dry season proper. Those with no dry season are constantly humid, although the varying seasonal moisture has its influence even here. Undisturbed constantly humid regions are nearly always covered with evergreen rain forest; periodically dry districts are occupied by deciduous woodland and savannah. With every slight annual precipitation the vegetation becomes that of the desert. Seen on approaching, a tropical rain forest shows a much more irregular and jagged skyline than the temperate forest, and its varied shades of green are usually dull, but often broken by white, red or other brilliant-hued flowering tree crowns. The tree tops, moreover, are often overhung by climbing vines and parasitic plants. The interior of some rain forests is a dense mass of tangled foliage from the ground up to the tree tops, but others are like immense dark columned halls which afford a free passage and a clear outlook, with only a few ferns on the ground and tree stems. As examples of light column forest Schimper mentions those of a species of Canarium on the mountains of Dominica and of many tree ferns in Trinidad. In the closed forest, the trunk and even leaves grow mosses, algae and flowering herbs. The struggle for light, intensified by great moisture, is a feature of the virgin rain forest.

MODERN "CARMEN" AT WORK

Gathering of Women Cigarmakers Presents a Colorful Sight in Spanish Cities Today.

The Carmen of the opera is no idle fancy of a poet. She was and is very real in Spain today. They are known as cigarreras, and their age may be anything from twelve to sixty. They are paid but a peseta a day, and as no human being can live on that, they devote a good share of their time to a business said to be the oldest in the world. It is no uncommon thing to find as high as 50 babies in cradles or crawling about the feet of the girls as they work. For comfort the girls discard the greater part of their clothing when they start to work, but retain a red rose in their hair or great silver earrings.

They are boisterous and rough, and the visitor is hailed with demands for money and given the vilest of curses if he refuses. But the girls sing as they work. Every one has a tiny mirror before her in which she sends constant glances, and the little clothing she retains is colorful as the rainbow. They all have lovers who, almost without exception abuse them, beat them and take away their earnings. She stands this as long as the lover is true to her, but if he looks elsewhere he had best beware of a stiletto blade between his shoulders. The older women make the cigars and the younger the cigarettes.—Denver News.

Right Way to Read.

The only way to read with any efficiency is to read so heartily that dinner time comes two hours before you expected it, Sidney Smith wrote. To sit with your Livy before you and hear the geese cackling that saved the capital and to see with your own eyes the Carthaginian sultans gathering up the rings of the Roman knights after the battle of Cannae and heaping them into bushels; and to be so intimately present at the actions you are reading of that when any one knocks at the door it will take you two or three seconds to determine whether you are in your own study or on the plains of Lombardy looking at Hannibal's weather-beaten face—that is the only kind of study that is not tiresome, almost the only kind that is not useless.

Land of the Incas.

The Peruvian Central railroad is a wonderful monument to the science of railroad engineering, the climb being made through a system of "switchbacks" and having 54 tunnels in its trajectory. At one point, Ticklo pass, it rises to an altitude of nearly 19,000 feet. The mines are rich in historical lore, having been operated in a primitive way by the Inca Indians a long time before the advent of Pizarro, the famous conquistador of Peru.

In the near vicinity of the mines are many ruins of old Inca temples and other evidences of a remote but well-developed form of civilization that dates back to ages that as yet have not been definitely established.

Pointers for Aviators.

Prehistoric birds resembled the early airplanes in their small wing expanse and large tails, according to a British engineer, indicating that man's and nature's development work have been parallel. Flying fish are more likely than birds to yield information about soaring flight, in the opinion of another observer.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

May Be in Earnest.

"This burlesque queen says she's going to play Hamlet." "For why?" "She says she wants to do better work." "She's bluffing." "I don't think she's bluffing. She wouldn't hunt for an excuse to wear tights."

Shoes.

Shoes.

Easter Flowers
ON SALE AT
Yeager's Shoe Store

I have taken the agency for the Fairview Green House at Milton, Pa., and will have on sale the week before Easter potted Begonias, Cinerarias, Daffodils, Baby Roses, Hyacinths, Tulips, Geraniums, Heliotropes, Azaleas, Primulas, Cyclamen and Easter Lilies. These flowers will arrive on Wednesday, the week before Easter.

My Store will be Open Evenings

and I invite you to call and view them. I solicit your trade and will make an effort to give you a good stock to select from

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and Avoid Disappointment.

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Lyon & Co. Lyon & Co.

THE STORE WHERE QUALITY REIGNS SUPREME.

Easter Fashions in Full Swing

We feel we can say with all truthfulness that we can save all our customers from 30 to 50 per cent. on any Coat or Suit bought from us. We bought all our new merchandise when they reached rock bottom.

LaVogue of Cleveland, Ritter Bros. of New York, and other high class Coat and Suit houses, which mean the perfection of tailoring, with the finishing touches, lapel, arrow heads, braidings and embroideries that are only found in high class hand-tailored Suits.

Parisian Dresses

We have a new department, specializing in high class Dresses for Ladies and Misses. Canton Crepes, Chiffon, Taffetas, Satin and Fine Serges; exclusive styles, perfect fitting. Selections that will satisfy the most discriminating taste.

Special Notice

Our Mr. Lyon, who is continually looking up manufacturers in the East, has made a large purchase in Men's Neckties. Among this purchase are ties ranging in values from \$1.50 to \$3.50. We have put them on our counter for sale at the low price **85 cents**. The first buyers always get choice.

Easter Over Blouses and Shirt Waists

We have just received a large line of Georgette Blouses and Shirt Waists; all new colors, exquisite styles and marvelous values.

House Cleaning Time Here

We have Rugs, Carpets, Linoleums, Lace Curtains, Draperies and Cretonnes at pre-war prices.

Shoes . . . Shoes

Our line of Spring Shoes for men, women and children is here. Ladies' Oxfords in black and cordovan, at a saving of two and three dollars per pair.

We Extend a Cordial Invitation to Visit Our Store

Lyon & Co. 64-10 Lyon & Co.

THE STORE WHERE QUALITY REIGNS SUPREME