

**CAT DELIVERED ITS MESSAGE**

**Battle-Scarred Feline Proved It at Least Had the Courage of its Convictions.**

The other night I saw a clever cat. He sat on the fence in the moonlight, all alone, writes a correspondent of the Boston Herald. He looked up at the moon and opened his mouth. I braced myself for what I believed to be coming, namely, his effort at self-expression. But no, this was a clever cat. Like O. Henry, he dealt in clever surprises. In his attitude there was something of suspense. My waiting nervous system felt the strain of it. Then he gave voice to a great silence. He said nothing in a dramatic way. With a self-satisfied smirk on his pussy face he jumped off the fence gracefully and disappeared into the night. He was a clever cat. He did the unexpected in an original and artistic way. He annoyed me, for he failed to live up to my conception of cats, yet I felt a certain admiration for him.

The next night another cat sat on the fence. This was a great cat, though his appearance was far from prepossessing. He was scrawny, and his coat bore, all too plainly, the scars of many a "foughten field." The divine light of unrest burned in his eyes. He threw back his head and poured out his very soul in vigorous expression, sincere and earnest, though unappreciated. Nothing daunted by the lack of applause, or by the shower of missiles directed at his scarred person, he gave full vent to his message in a form which, though unconventional, seemed best to fit his muse. Then, with an air of utter abandon, he shook the dust of the fence from his unconcerned feet and disappeared. "This," thought I, my ears still ringing, "was truly a great cat. He had a message and he gave it. Let the world receive it or reject it as it will."

**WHERE HUSTLE IS UNKNOWN**

**Mallorca Justly Entitled to the Appellation Given to It, "Island of Calm."**

Mallorca, a tiny speck of an island in the Mediterranean, is a land of peace and ease. A great painter and writer who visited the island, has christened it "The Island of Calm," because there everyone moves, rests, talks, walks and conducts his courtships as if the day had 48 hours, the mile about 16,000 feet, and the span of human life 700 years, so little haste do they make in living and enjoying life. These people who take life so leisurely, are not lazy, shiftless or unpleasant in personal appearance or manner. They are intelligent, honest, capable of work, sober and economical. These characteristics, preserved throughout centuries of uninterrupted peace and tranquility, have made them peaceable, trusting and home-loving. The men are of medium height, strong and agile.

And as for the women, they possess the same lovely skin as the women of North America, features as if sculptured by Phidias or Praxiteles, and they walk like goddesses. But they know nothing of the "joy of living," due partially to ancestral Arabic influences and to the fact that their island has for so long been under strict religious repression.

**Little Sign of Culture in Speech.**

Americans are known the world around for their short and nasal a's and many have been misled into broadening all their a's to prove their culture. But the original sound was as in "far" and "palm." It is the first sound uttered by infants and still the most general sound of the letter on the continent of Europe. The "ah" sound was the most frequent for the letter in the earliest English or Anglo-Saxon, still considered the model and best usage in our language. The a in "ask" may be pronounced like the a in "bare" or "at," but, according to the Encyclopedia Americana, "with the majority of good speakers" it should be akin to the "ah" sound. Best authorities hold that the excessive use of the short a is most common in America, outside the greater part of New England. It is thus a provincialism, whereas the broadened a's may be indicative of travel, familiarity with the languages of Europe, and association with cultured people.

**"Connoisseur" and "Dilettante."**

The connoisseur is "one who knows," as opposed to the dilettante, who only "thinks he knows." The connoisseur is cognizant of the true principles of art, and through his knowledge is competent to pass a critical judgment concerning any art, particularly of painting, sculpture or music. He is of a higher grade than the amateur, and more nearly approaches the artist, whose rules of action he is familiar with, but does not practice. The dilettante may be a lover of the fine arts, science or letters, and may pursue any one of the arts in a desultory way and for amusement, and Lowell says of him: "The main characteristic of the dilettante is that sort of impartiality that springs from inertia of mind, admirable for observation, incapable of turning it to practical account."

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

**FIGURED IN NAPOLEON'S LIFE**

**Woman Set Down in History as One of the Most Beautiful of His Many Conquests.**

Napoleon's life was one of fair women, but among them all few were more beautiful and more heartless than Marguerite Bellisle Foures. Napoleon saw her in Cairo where she was honeymooning with Lieut. Foures, having accompanied him in disguise on the transport. Napoleon promptly sent Foures to Paris with alleged important dispatches and began to make love to the bride. He was successful, and she moved to a cottage near the palace. The English captured her husband and, knowing of Napoleon's acts in Cairo, they promptly sent Foures back there, knowing he would seek revenge.

But he was a drop of water against the power of Napoleon. His wife was given a divorce, and he was sent to an obscure town in rural France. She then began to parade her capture, dressed in costly costumes, wore Napoleon's picture on a chain about her neck, and was with him constantly. His soldiers dubbed her "Cleopatra." When Josephine made up with Napoleon, and he was elevated to head France, he left the fair Marguerite, although he gave her a small fortune. He also arranged a marriage for her with Henri de Ranchoup. Her husband was out of town much of the time, and she entertained with more brilliancy than discretion. She ended up by running away to Brazil with a young officer, where she lived happy and content until she was ninety-two years old.—Detroit News.

**ENGLISH FIRST TO CHEW GUM**

**In the Year 1635 a Recipe for Its Manufacture Was Published in That Country.**

Chewing gum isn't new, and it isn't American in origin, despite the fact that our English cousins keep telling us that gum-chewing is an American habit. In fact, they originated it themselves. John Bate, an English writer, gave a recipe for chewing in 1635. He called it "mouth glew." Here's the recipe:

"Take Isinglass and steep it in water until such time as you may easily pull it to pieces, put it into a glass or pot well loaded and set it in balneo; that is, in a pot of water on the fire. There let it remain until all, or most part of it, is dissolved; then strain it thorow a wide haire seive; while it is hot, upon another course and close haire seive, and when it is cold it will be like a thick jelly. If you would have it of a dainty smell and aromatick taste, put into it a little cinnamon bruised, and a little marjoram, and rosemary flowers, while it is dissolving, and if you please a small quantity of brown sugar carily to give it a sweetish smatch."

This recipe is taken from a book called "Mysteries of Nature and Art."

**French Papermaking History.**

It was from the early Saracens that the art of papermaking was acquired by the French, and passed on to the other nations of Europe. The earliest papermakers of France were the vassals of the French nobility who pursued their occupation on the estates of their overlords, fabricating the precious material required for use by their masters, say the historians. Their production, together with that of the monks of the various monasteries, represented the only paper production activity of France, as it emerged from the gloom of the medieval ages.

The first specimen of paper to be found in France bearing an authentic date is a document purporting to be one of the bonds given to the Jews by a Lieutenant of Richard I of England for the purpose of financing his crusade in the Holy land. It is dated 1190 A. D.

**Ceylonese Plumbago.**

Plumbago, Ceylon's most important mineral product, is known all over the world for its luster, lubricating, polishing and binding qualities. In appearance it is a strong black crystalline. There are now about 1,000 plumbago mines in Ceylon, including all the shallow pits, open works and deep mines. The depth varies from a few yards to as much as 700 feet. Most of the mines are worked by natives, the only important one controlled by Europeans being the Medapola. In the majority of the mines the only machinery used is the "dabare." This consists of a long wooden barrel with handles at each end. A rope is wound around this with a bucket fastened to each end. It is worked by seven or eight men turning the handle.

**Time Has Brought Changes.**

When I was a young lady I was extremely thin and tall, and very sensitive in regard to my figure. Our club was about to give a masquerade which I was anxious to attend, but realizing how hard it would be for me to disguise myself, and yet wishing to represent something original, I remarked this to a young man at the club. He looked at me with a smile, and in the presence of all the other members said, in a most sarcastic voice, "Well, why don't you wear a rubber on your head and go as a lead pencil?" Oh, if he could only see me now, I know he would say, "put a couple of hoops around your waist and go as a barrel."—Exchange.

**PERIODS IN AGE OF EARTH**

**Figures Compiled by Geologist Are Certainly Interesting Though Perhaps a Little Startling.**

A geologist describes by means of a graphic chart the comparative lengths of the different periods of the age of the earth. He places the age of the earth arbitrarily at 72,000,000 years, represented by a clock dial of 24 hours—3,000,000 years to each hour.

On the above basis the first six hours of the clock represent Azotic time, the earliest conjectural period of the earth's formation—18,000,000 years; the next six hours Eozoic and the next eight Paleozoic time—18,000,000 and 24,000,000 years, respectively—periods of mineral and vegetable formations. In the next three hours animal life developed—Mesozoic time, 9,000,000 years—that is, from the twentieth to the twenty-third hour. Thus the last hour of the 24—3,000,000 years of geologic time—represents Neozoic time, which includes the appearance of human life in the Quaternary period.

This last division of the 24 hours, the Quaternary period, is shown as only ten minutes—in other words 500,000 years. The existence of human life on the earth, therefore, bears the same relation to the age of the earth as ten minutes does to twenty-four hours. But since the period of written history is estimated roughly at only 6,000 years, this last division is not shown on the chart, since it would only be 12 seconds in duration.—Scientific American.

**POPULAR SPORT IN PANAMA**

**Duel to the Death Between Bull and Jaguar Is Considered Height of Entertainment.**

The Panamanian who is a real sport delights in nothing so much as a fight between a jaguar and a bull. One must visit the Isthmus to see this particular kind of sport.

An enormous cage, strongly built of scantlings and iron bars, is placed in the center of the ring ordinarily used for bull fights. A bull is placed inside of it and presently one of the huge South American cats is wheeled up in a smaller cage and introduced into the barred inclosure. The latter is about ten feet high, with twice that length and breadth.

In the fight which then ensues the bull is victorious usually. Not more than once in ten such contests does the jaguar prove the victor. This would not be the case if the animals were not restricted to so narrow a space; but the big cat, being obliged to rely mainly upon its activity, does not have a fair chance.

Nevertheless, the duel greatly delights the spectators. The fair Panamanians shriek with excitement, and the little Panamanians rend the air with yells.

**Fish Thrive Under Water.**

Water never gets colder than about 39 degrees. So no matter how thick the day, and no matter how thick the ice upon the stream or lake, the fishes are enjoying a temperature of about 39 degrees, and they move about in the water and gather supplies very well at that temperature. Through the clear ice one may see fish with their backs against it, where the temperature must be 32 degrees, and if you strike the ice above them lightly they dart away with pretty good speed. If you will strike the ice immediately above them with the back of an ax, or a sledge hammer, you will kill the fish. The concussion does the business and the fish will turn up its white belly upward, all ways. It is a common enough thing in some regions for the boys to kill the fish through the ice, and then to cut a hole and get them out.

Among the smartest Riviera toilets are coat dresses of white and ecru flannels and thick, coarse, threaded linsens finished with shawl collars, loose, low belts and wide belled sleeves.



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