

GHOST STORIES HELP SELL OLD CASTLES

Find Spooks Enhance Value of Property.

London.—Ghost stories are being bought and sold in the London real estate market as a result of the discovery that old castles with spooky reputations are preferred by buyers, particularly wealthy Americans, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. Not that the purchasers believe in ghosts, but there is something about owning a home with a tradition of being haunted that makes it worth thousands more, in the estimation of many purchasers.

England is well supplied with good ghost stories, and the list is constantly being added to, largely, it is believed, because candles are still extensively used for illumination and the dim light of a candle is very favorable, according to scientists, for producing the condition that leads to seeing things that aren't there.

Guests have always had one drawback from the standpoint of careful investigation—they are usually seen by people who don't want to see them, and almost never by persons who go looking for them. There is a simple explanation for that, and for the ghosts that are heard as well as those that are seen. The visible ghosts, scientific investigators declare, exist only in the eye of the beholder, and the audible ones in his ear.

Sounds Are Amplified. Everybody, even those who have never claimed to have seen a ghost, has lain awake at night and heard queer sounds, abnormally loud, even though they would have been inaudible to anyone else, because they existed only in the hearer's own ear.

The sounds were made by blood pulsing through the veins of the ear. Picked up by the eardrum, which amplifies them just as a radio receiver amplifies an incoming signal, the ear sounds, heard in moments of apprehension or nervousness, can easily be imagined to be the stealthy steps of a burglar or the movements of a more ghostly visitor, particularly if one is sleeping in a centuries-old castle well supplied with ghostly legends.

As for the ghosts that are seen, they are classified medically as Purkinje images or Sanson specters, both named after their discoverers, and it is in seeing them that the weak light from a candle plays such an important part. Purkinje discovered that under certain conditions, the blood vessels of the retina, that film at the back of the eye which is directly connected with the nerve leading to the brain and which really sees the image focused on it by the eye lens, could produce images of its own. To do that, though, a dim light is necessary as a bright illumination furnishes so much light that the blood vessels do not cast their shadow reflections. It is as when one meets an approaching automobile at night. If the car has bright lights on that flood of light blinds the eye, whereas if the dimmers are turned on the retina is able to distinguish all the details of the roadway clearly.

How It Is Explained. Like the Purkinje image, the Sanson specter is produced within the eye either on the front surface of the cornea, which is at the front of the eyeball, or on either the front or back surfaces of the crystalline lens, a convex lens like that in a camera, which focuses the image on the retina. When you look through a street-car window under certain light conditions, you not only see the passing buildings outside, but likewise images of the people behind you, or buildings on the opposite side of the street, the images being formed on the window glass. The Sanson specters are something of the same sort, tiny images, usually badly blurred, of things which are at one side, out of the direct line of vision. But the optical nerves, accustomed to placing things they see by their size and relation to other objects, transmit a message to the brain saying that these blurred specters are ahead, and, like the images on the street-car window, you can look right through them and see solid objects behind.

Find Substance to Prevent Blood Clotting

Baltimore, Md.—From the liver of dogs Prof. W. H. Howell of the Johns Hopkins university has prepared an anti-coagulant that will keep a sample of blood in a practically normal condition for 24 hours. Clotting is nature's protection against bleeding to death, but this tendency of the vital fluid to congeal after its exposure to the air offers serious disadvantages in blood transfusions and certain types of important experimental work. This new clot-preventing substance, which has been named heparin, is of great interest, therefore, to surgeons, pathologists and other specialists who deal with blood, particularly those who make the various blood tests used in detecting disease.

PLANES AND RADIO HELP CATCH FISH

Newest Things Help Oldest Human Industry.

Washington.—Aircraft and radio, the newest things under the sun, are being recruited to the aid of fishing, a human industry as old as hunting and older than farming, according to Lewis Radcliffe, deputy United States fish commissioner. Canada, England, Scotland, France and Japan are among the countries making use of airplanes for locating schools of fish, whales, etc., and for maintaining patrols against illicit fishing. The Danish government is also reported to be contemplating an airplane fish patrol off the coast of Greenland, where there is a stretch of 225 miles of fishing waters which a single surface vessel cannot adequately guard, but which could easily be kept under supervision by a fast flying and far-seeing plane.

The United States was the pioneer in this work, having used planes and dirigibles as early as 1919, but lack of funds and the disorganized condition of the fisheries have prevented further development in this country. In Spain efforts are now being made to interest fishing-vessel owners to install radio telephone receiving and transmitting apparatus and at least one fishing vessel has been equipped. In addition to the benefits in case of storm or disaster, it is claimed that the addition of this equipment will enable the fishing vessel to keep in touch with the market and thus return at more advantageous periods; that canneries may be notified of expected time of arrival and extent of catch.

Undersea Relief Maps of Pacific Made by Navy

Washington.—An achievement of the navy during the cruise of the battle fleet from San Francisco to Australia two years ago has just come to light with publication of undersea relief maps of the route the ships followed on that historic voyage of more than 7,000 miles. Graphic representations of soundings taken at the time by the battleship Maryland, the light cruiser Milwaukee, and the destroyer Hull are shown. They are expected to be of incalculable value to navigation in the Pacific as well as to the advancement of the science of oceanography. Equipped with sonic electric depth-sounding devices, it was an easy matter for the ships to chart the bed of the waters as they passed over. They accurately mapped the deepest ravines. Sheer pinnacles rising 24,000 feet in some instances were located. Along other stretches of the route the maps disclose queer outlines of the Pacific's bed, suggestive of an impressionistic picture of the skyline of a great city.

In the opinion of some navy hydrographers, the bottom of the oceans and other bodies of waters may be charted, though they be concealed miles below the surface even before man concludes his age-old task of mapping the exposed portions of the world. And this, they say, is possible without ever dropping a lead line from a ship.

One-Horned Rhinoceros Is Found in Java Jungle

Berlin.—A scaly monster of the pre-human ages of the earth, surviving into modern times on the swampy fastnesses of southern Java, is reported to the scientific journal, Die Umschau, by Dr. P. Vageler.

It is described as a one-horned rhinoceros, related to a form already known elsewhere in the East Indies, but differing from it in that its hide is closely covered with small, horny scales. It also has enormous front teeth, like those of the hippopotamus. It has often been described by the natives under the name "Tanggiling," which means "scaly beast," but Europeans were incredulous. Finally photographs were brought out of the jungle showing the animal.

Likes "Poker Face"

London.—The tennis expert of the Westminster Gazette is quite enthusiastic over the fair Helen of California. Her victory over bare-legged Billie Tapscott of South Africa the critic describes as "a miracle of hitting" by "a demure figure of gracious efficiency, without parade, without the suspicion of side, without a fragment of fanfarade."

Briton Bags 280 Lions on Hunt in Africa

London.—The world's biggest record for big-game shooting, which is held by Leslie Tarleton, companion of Theodore Roosevelt on the late President's African hunt, is now being threatened by an English hunter, J. P. Lucy, who has just returned from Africa with 280 lions to his credit. Tarleton's record is 286 lions. Lucy will soon return to Kenya for another hunt, after which he expects to claim the championship. He believes that not even Tarleton has equaled his record of 26 lions in three weeks. Lucy also has killed 84 elephants and 100 rhinoceroses in other expeditions.

Clearing Pathway of School of the Future

The little red schoolhouse is poetic in songbooks and sentimental orations, but it exacts an appalling toll in the health of children condemned to spend much of their youth within its insanitary walls, a writer in the Chicago Daily News asserts. The schools of the future will be built primarily to serve the health needs of the growing child and the reward will be a generation of sturdy citizens with color in their cheeks and a spring in their steps. Such is the picture painted by Dr. Max Sehama, professor of pediatrics at the University of Minnesota and a leading authority on fatigue in children. Doctor Sehama, in Chicago in connection with recent baby week activities, holds that while America has been piling up riches beyond those of any nation in history, its children have been drifting toward physical bankruptcy.

"One million children have beginning tuberculosis. Four hundred thousand have leakage of the heart. One million suffer from spinal curvature and other deformities. Two million have defective hearing, and five million reveal malnutrition," Doctor Sehama cited these figures as warrant for a vigorous effort on the part of the state to reorganize its educational program so as to build up the health of future citizens.

"Sixty per cent of the 25,000,000 school children of America attend rural schools. Hardly a rural community is without one or more insanitary, indecent, unfit schools. Children are compelled to pass their days in buildings in which no employer would think of asking workmen to toll."

The schools of the future, rural as well as urban, "will have fresh-air rooms, lighting will be from the sun, seats and desks will be adjustable, lunches will be served at least one wholesome, rational meal a day, physical education under the leadership of experts will be compulsory and universal, Doctor Sehama believes. "The weak and defective child, through corrective exercise in small special classes, will get its full opportunity for normal development. There will be clinics for the diagnosis of mental as well as physical ailments, with full-time physicians and nurses watching the health of the children. "The teachers will be prepared to instruct in practical hygiene as well as in academic subjects. All of this will be linked up with the home—the school being considered the day home of the child."

Wrens Require Space

For years it has been recommended that the entrance to a nest box for house wrens should be only the size of a 25 cent coin, or about seven-eighths of an inch in diameter, says a federal report. This advice was on the theory that the wren needs protection from larger birds that might oust it from bird houses. The wren itself, however, may have other ideas about the matter, for of several bird boxes with seven-eighths inch entrances tried out by the biological survey of the United States Department of Agriculture last summer on the experimental farm at Glenn Dale, Md., not one was occupied. Ten broods of wrens were reared, however, in houses having from 1 1/4 to 1 3/4 inch entrances, a fact that clearly indicates the bird's preference for more ample entrances.

It Wasn't an Accident

The dead speak to a chemist and tell him the truth. The father of a family went to work one morning as usual. An hour later a son went to his mother's room and found it full of gas from a broken fixture and his mother lifeless. The coroner made a routine examination and discovered nothing, but a chemist found no carbon monoxide in the blood, positive evidence the victim was dead before the gas was turned on. There had been no suspicion of murder up to this point. Next it was found the back of the woman's neck bore finger prints. She had probably been suffocated by holding her face down in the pillow. The gas fixture was then broken to hide the crime. Her husband was convicted of murder.—Cap-per's Weekly.

Coming "Air Train"

Aeronautical engineers in Germany are working on plans of an "air train" as a possible means of travel in the future. The locomotive will be a powerful airplane and the "pullmans" a row of gliders coupled to the locomotive and to each other, as the cars of a train, only with considerably greater spacing between the units. Passengers in each glider will be destined for some particular town, and as the airframe of each town is approached the glider for that destination will be released from the end of the string and settle gracefully down with its special pilot and its passengers.

Wright Caustic

Peter Wright, the slanderer of Gladstone, is a caustic chap," said a New York publisher. "I heard him once, at the Bath club in London, denouncing all our popular novelists. "He denounced Sinclair Lewis because Lewis advertised himself recently by daring God to strike him dead, and by refusing a small prize. "Then he denounced Arnold Bennett, Bernard Shaw and H. G. Wells for their long-windedness. "Those men," he said, "think they can make their books immortal by making them everlasting."

CLAIMS BLOOD OF NOW EXTINCT RACE

Believed Only Survivor of Nah-Dah-Ko Tribe.

Anadarko, Okla.—Blood of an extinct race flows in the veins of Harry Shirley, believed to be the last of the Nah-Dah-Ko Indians, who attained a degree of civilization as long as four centuries ago.

His father, Pat Shirley, was a white trader, but his mother was a Nah-Dah-Ko. With his white wife and two children, Shirley lives on a farm near Anadarko. He is fifty-five years old. Virtual annihilation of the Nah-Dah-Kos was completed when Shirley was four years old, and his knowledge of the fate of his people is vague. The band, which was a branch of the Caddo tribe, was not great in numbers, and he believes it was annihilated in an internecine war when he was a child. He was taken to Texas by his father when hostilities broke out, and did not return until the war ended.

The town of Anadarko is named for the vanished tribe. Legend has it that the elder Shirley's Irish pronunciation of the tribal name was responsible for the corruption of the name from Nah-Dah-Ko to Anadarko. Although the present town was not founded until 1901, an Indian agency of the same name was located here as early as 1858.

The original home of the Nah-Dah-Ko band was in Louisiana. Records of a Spanish explorer reveal that in 1542 the Indians lived in houses, farmed extensively and owned cattle. They were driven westward by the encroachment of the white man and gradually lost their identity through absorption into other tribes and losses in warfare.

New Diamond Fields Attract Farm Labor

Pretoria, Transvaal.—More than 60,000 Europeans and 120,000 natives are working on the newly discovered diamond fields in the Lichtenburg area, according to Dr. H. A. Lorentz, Dutch counsel general here.

The lure of lucky strikes is responsible for a great dearth of farm labor, and Lichtenburg farmers are bewailing the fact that kaffirs cannot be induced to do farm work when they can earn 30 shillings a week in the diamond fields. No less than 43 per cent of the diggers belong to the agricultural classes, and only nine per cent are diamond miners by trade.

Curious tales of fortune hunting abound. Some who believed they had the richest claims suffered disappointment, while, on the other hand, an old man who sat down when he saw he was being beaten in the race for claim pegging, dug where he sat and struck a rich patch.

In another case a digger cursed when he sprained his ankle, falling over a tuft of grass, but later discovered that he had fallen on a claim that is now panning out rich.

Find 100-Foot Worms Off California Coast

Berkeley, Calif.—Species of sea worms classified as "amazing creatures," some of which are said to be 100 feet long, have been seen and studied in the Pacific ocean near San Diego by Prof. W. R. Coe, Yale university, as guest research worker at the University of California, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, at La Jolla, he reports.

These remarkable sea denizens, known by the scientific name "nemertean," have been examined by few biologists of the world. Doctor Coe is believed to be the only living scientist knowing much about them.

To zoologists the worms are especially notable for their length, some of the more common species extending a yard, their bodies being only a fraction of an inch in width. Certain of the nemertean species are reported to be longer than any known animal, 100 or more feet. Even the whale has not been found to reach quite that length, says Doctor Coe.

Soot From Smudge Pots Colors Grave Monuments

Poppensh, Wash.—Sextons are busy with sponge and chamois cleaning grave monuments after the sootfall from the smudge pots burned in central Washington to fight off frost. Polished granite has an affinity for heavy soot and most of the tombstones in cemeteries resembled charred tree trunks in fire-swept forests. The heavy smoke and soot did much temporary damage, but through it all the fruit and prosperity were both saved to the apple growers.

Honey Burden Weighs Down Roof of House

Gomshall, England.—There's so much honey in the roof of a Fifteenth-century farmhouse here, called "Cole Kitchen farm," that the ceiling of the room immediately underneath is giving way beneath the weight after 100 years' service as a gigantic beehive.

T. H. English, the owner, says nobody ever tried to get the honey because it would necessitate removing the roof.

In the swarming season the place is smothered with bees.

Insure against such delays

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