WHY

Custom of Earth Eating Is More or Less Common

The mud pies that children often make could be eaten with enjoyment by many adult persons in various parts of the world, according to facts revealed by "Geophagy," a book by Dr. Berthold Laufer, curator of anthology at Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

Doctor Laufer has made extensive research in geophagy, which is the practice of eating clay, loam and other types of soil, and has published the results of his studies throughout many countries in both ancient and modern times. His investigations began with records of earth eating in China.

Traces of the custom have been found in Indo-China, Malaysia, Polynesia, Melanesia, Australia, India, Burma, Siam, Central Asia, Siberia, Persia, Arabia, Africa, Europe, North America, Mexico, Central America and South America.

As a rule not every kind of earth is eaten, says Doctor Laufer, but only those kinds which recommend themselves through certain qualities of color, odor, flavor, softness and plasticity.

Geophagy occurs among the most civilized nations as well as among primitive tribes. It bears no relation to climate, race, creed or culture. It is a habit that occurs among individuals and not among any particular tribal, or social group.

The women of Spain, says Doctor Laufer, once believed the eating of earth was an aid to a delicate complexion and the ladies of the Spanish aristocracy in the Seventeenth century had such a passion for geophagy that the ecclesiastic and secular authorities took steps to combat the evil.

Why Scientists Display Interest in Alaska

If the first Americans did come from Asia they must have left on both sides of the Bering sea material traces of their existence in the form of utensils and tools and dwellings, as well as possibly, skeletons. It is in the hopes of locating some such traces that the Smithsonian institution sent out its expedition into remote Alaska under Doctor Hrdlicka and is now planning further explorations.

Much of the success of this new exploration will depend on unlocking the secrets of numerous "dead" villages, whose traces have been located. Many are found along the shores of the Yukon, where the first immigrants from Asia are thought to have placed their habitations. They show the remains of pit dwellings, with stone implements, bones of animals, fragments of crude pottery and now and then articles regarded by Doctor Hrdlicka as of Asiatic derivation. Human skeletons have also been found.

Why 1930 Is Noted

M. K. Wisehart in the American Magazine suggests the following as the outstanding events of the year 1930: Discovery of the remains of the Salomon August Andree North pole aerial expedition; transatlantic nonstop flight of Coste and Bellonte; winning of four major golf championships in one year by Bobby Jones; revolt in India, led by Gandhi; birth of Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr.; Columbus (Ohio) penitentiary fire; great American drought; discovery of Planet X, later named Pluto; return of Carol to Rumania to accend throne, and loss of England's dirigible R-101.

Why Waves Change Motion

C. Grand Pierre in "A Systematic Dictionary of Sea Terms" says: Waves are not a motion of water masses, not an undulating current, but surface undulations, as that of a grain field; they do not imply a forward movement of successive portions of water." In other words, the advance of a wave is the advance of a mere form and no water is moved horizontally by a wave unless it breaks.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Why Thunder Seems to Roll

The weather bureau says the long duration of thunder is owing mainly to the fact that the several parts of a streak of lightning are at different distances from the observer, and that sound travels at the rate of about a mile in five seconds. Reflection of the sound from clouds and other objects also helps to produce the long, drawn-out rolls sometimes heard.

Why Snowflakes Differ

If the temperature is low, the snowflakes are small, flat and regular; if the temperature is near the freezing point, particularly in the lower layers of the atmosphere, the flakes often mat together and form large flots. If the temperature is still higher, the flakes are often incomplete, as parts are melted off.

Why Grounds Are Changed

Congress has approved the preparation of plans and studies for improving the base of the Washington monument so as to conform to the landscape treatment of the Mall and the Lincoln memorial.

Why Absentee Voting

Many persons have business which takes them away from home at voting time. Since their interests are identified with their homes, many states provide for their voting by mail.

Why Face Is Called "Phiz"

"Phiz" as applied to the face is a corrupted contraction of the word "physiognomy."

HOW

TERM "WISEACRE" BECAME A WORD OF CONTEMPT.—"Wiseacre" is a corrupted form of German "weissager," meaning a prophet, soothsayer, or one who foretells the future. Centuries ago it was applied to learned persons and scholars. For instance, John Leland referred to Pythagoras as "a mighty wiseacre." The word, however, has completely lost its original meaning and now is applied to one who makes undue pretensions to wisdom, or a would-be wise person. According to an old story a country gentlemen once boasted of his vast estates in the presence of Ben Jonson, while they were sipping wine in the Devil's tavern on Fleet street. Jonson replied: "What care we for your dirt and clods? Where you have an acre of land I have ten acres of wit." As the country gentleman left the room he retorted: "All right, Mr. Wiseacre."—Pathfinder Magazine.

How Average Man Ekes Out His Allotted Time

It is interesting to learn, based on research, that man sleeps an average of 23 of his 70 allotted years.

He works—contrary to popular belief—only 18 out of those 70 years. He spends 4 years of his life reading newspapers, books and magazines, 1 year, 9 months at play, 2½ years idling, and only 3 months less than that washing, shaving and dressing.

He devotes some 2 years 3 months to walking, riding on cars, on trains, ships and in automobiles, airplanes etc.

Three full years he spends eating his food, while another year and 3 months are devoted to school. A year and 6 months, usually, represents time out for sickness.

Radios, movies and various other forms of entertainment claim 3½ years of man's life. The remaining 7 years and 65 days may be classed as "sundries."—Capper's Weekly.

How Light Stimulates Bees

By cutting a window in the bottom of the hives, a California beekeeper has devised a way to prevent the queen bees from leaving the colony and to increase the yield of honey, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. An opening, 10 by 15 inches in size, was made and a glass installed. The hive was raised a few inches above the ground and white paper spread under it to reflect the light into the brood combs. With this device, it was unnecessary to use a queen excluder, and the keeper found that hives equipped with the window yielded from 200 to 250 pounds of honey, while the others, not so equipped, had from 30 to 50 pounds.

How Strawberry Got Name

Strawberries do not owe their name to the fact that they were once brought to market like onions—strung on straws. Originally, the belief was that the name arose from the practice of protecting the fruit-bearing fleshy receptacle that we call the berry with a bed of straws. Later philologists derived the name from the achenia scattered over the surface of the strawberry, because they resembled particles of chaff or straw. But strawberry has been traced to the Anglo-Saxon streaw, strew, from the fact of its spreading of scattering by means of runners, plus berige, a small round or ovate fruit.—Literary Digest.

How Soil Is "Limed"

The term "liming" as generally used means the application to the soil of the element known to chemists as calcium in one of two forms—either calcium carbonate, more commonly known as carbonate of lime, or calcium oxide, the ordinary burned lime of commerce. Carbonate of magnesium mixed with carbonate of lime, as in dolomitic or magnesian limestone, and the mixed oxides resulting from burning such limestones are included also under the term "lime."

How Sound Travels

The velocity of sound through air depends upon the temperature; for practical problems, 1,100 feet a second is usually taken as the speed of sound in air. Light, on the other hand, travels at a speed of more than 18,000 feet in a second. That is why one one can see a person at a distance strike an object with a mallet and not hear the sound produced until a short time later.

How Mountain Lion Died

A mountain lion escaped from a cage after capture near Gunnison, Utah, accidentally killed himself a short while after his dash for freedom. A chain trailing from his neck, caught on the limb of a tree as the big cat jumped, and the animal hung, suspended in the air, until strangulation stopped his frantic efforts to free himself.

How Key West Was Named

"West" is a corruption of the Spanish "huest," meaning a bone. "Key" is a corruption of the Indian word signifying an islet, sand bank or rock in the ocean.

How to Outwit Tornado

An automobile can outwit a tornado coming at 40 miles an hour, if the driver keeps his head and turns into a side road at right angles to the storm's path.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT

"Forget each kindness that you do
As soon as you have done it.
Forget the praise that falls to you
The moment you have won it.
Remember every kindness done
To whate'er its measure.
Remember praise by others won
And pass it on with pleasure."

—Cotton has caught on again! The sweet little cotton-frocked heroine of stage and story is actually walking the city streets as well as the country lanes.

And besides her cotton frock she's often wearing a cotton hat, cotton gloves, a cotton scarf, cotton stockings and many other accessories equally important and equally fashionable.

The fashion for cotton doesn't stop with sports things either. Nor does your entire outfit have to be of cotton to make these cotton accessories fashion-right. They go everywhere and with everything.

—Crisp piques, soft cotton meshes, gay polka-dotted broadcloths and batistes—they're just as much in fashion as silks, and they can be laundered at home.

—New cotton fabric gloves are so fine and smooth, they look just like suede or kid ones. They're made slip-on style, like the most fashionable leather gloves, and are often hand sewed, like the gloves illustrated. You can wash them at night and wear them in the morning.

White is as smart as anything but you'll find the same practical beiges and browns that you like so well in suede.

If you want the newest glove idea it's pique, for sports-wear. And there are even gloves of cotton mesh.

—Have you seen the new handbags of pique, cotton mesh or cotton tweed?

—Pique tulips, gingham carnations, eyelet batiste roses, madras gardenias—those are a few of the new flowers blossoming this summer on fashionable coat and suit lapels.

White flowers on the dark costume, bright colored flowers on the white costume—are the fashion rule.

—Belt and scarf to match is a fashionable color combination this season. So you find cotton belts to go with cotton scarfs.

Pique belts, mesh belts and bright colored cotton prints that can be tied around like a sash.

—This is what the fashionable woman wears with her dresses of linen, pique or mesh to make the right ensemble effect. She chooses mesh lisles to wear with mesh dresses. And for her other cottons, plain lisles, sheer and light as chiffon.

Beiges that look like tanned skins are smart. And white mesh stockings are new with white dresses.

—And don't forget the collars and cuffs and vestees of cotton that make your dark or printed dress look so much in summer fashion. Nor those swank little hats of stiched pique or linen or the new, mesh-like cotton weave.

They all belong in the fashionable cotton accessory wardrobe for summer.

—American men dress pretty much alike all over the country. They dress comfortably, conservatively and becomingly, too. The men's fashion census proved it.

Their favorite hat is the snap brim felt. They wear more of it than all other kinds put together. The majority of men prefer it with the plain, raw edge. And more and more men are wearing it with the brim turned up.

A good half the number of men counted wore this hat in medium or light gray. Brown and tan came second, with green and blue far down the list.

—First choice of suits was the two-botton, single-breasted coat with notched lapels. Next the more fitted two-button type with peaked lapels. Third, the three-button suit. Then came the double-breasted.

Medium and dark grays were the favorite suit colors, with browns and tans second. But navy blue is still a country-wide favorite.

—Three topcoats out of every four were single-breasted with three buttons, box back and patch pockets. Double-breasted coats ran second, according to the census figures, with fly-front coats in a small minority.

As in hats and suits, gray ranks first; brown and tan second. Tweed is the most popular material.

—Leading the shirts is the one with soft collar attached. Next—and on the increase in popularity—is the neckband shirt worn with starched collar.

Over half the shirts counted were white. Blue came second, tan third, green fourth, gray fifth. And solid colors outnumber stripes.

—What kind of necktie does the American man prefer? Decidedly all-over patterns—pin dots, geometric and floral designs. Over half the men counted wore them.

Next popular were simple stripes, with solid colors third.

Blue led the colors. Dark red was second; then brown and green, running close together; gray fifth; tan, sixth.

—Of every hundred American men, 75 prefer shoes with box toes. Most of these are regular oxford types. The remainder, blucher oxfords.

Wing tip shoes rank second and plain toes third.

Black is the leading shoe color; brown second and tan third.

—From Maine to British Columbia, New York to the Pacific Coast, Chicago to New Orleans, cities were censured. And the picture presented here is a perfect composite of American fashion.

BLACK PEARLS

(Continued from page 2, Col. 6.)

part of it was lawn, green and smooth and well cared for. Dotted here and there were hibiscus bushes laden with red or white bell-shaped blossoms, and small arbors of a trailing vine from which hung clusters of pink flowers.

Entirely surrounding the lawn were beds densely grown wtih other tropical flowers—dazzling masses of color. On every side towered great forest trees which watched over this strange thing of beauty laid down in their midst. I glanced at the man beside me. He was standing with his hat in his hand.

"Poor Jafra," he said. "She rests here."

A long silence followed. He squared his shoulders finally and said, "It's just over five years since it happened. My very soul died with her. The burial places they have out here are terrible. I couldn't bear to think of her among tombstones—she was so gay, so much alive—so I bought this piece of Lontar. It had been our favorite picnic ground—she loved it. It is rather fine, isn't it?

"When the ghastly details were over I made this garden with my own hands and put Kassim here to tend it. Then I cleared out—I couldn't bear to stay.

"Every year I make my pilgrimage as faithfully as the Said makes his to Mecca. A sentimental idea, isn't it?" He smiled apologetically. "I warned you that my story had no beginning and no end. It's just a bit of Life."

A moment later I went back to the beach, leaving Astley in his fragrant garden, alone with the spirit of that woman of Banda. —Hearst's International Cosmopolitan.

PEACH CROP DOUBLED

The Pennsylvania peach crop for 1931 will reach 1,872,000 bushels, just twice the 1930 production, it was estimated today in the June crop report of the Federal-State crop reporting service.

The survey found the condition of oats, barley, alfalfa, apples, peaches and pears further advanced on June 1 than the 10-year average and winter wheat, rye, tame hay, clover, timothy and pasture from 2 to 6 per cent behind the average.

"Are you looking for something in men's clothing?" asked the polite floor walker.

"No, sir, boss I ain't," explained the old man. "I'se looking for supp'n in Wimmen's clothing; I've lost my wife some'eres in this place."

"I wonder if Jack knows I have money."

"Has he proposed?"

"Yes."

"He knows."

It dramatically shows that the men and women of this country know what is right, and wear what is right. Know it and wear it better than any other country in the world!

NEW HIGH RECORD FOR BIBLE CIRCULATION

During 1930 the American Bible Society distributed Bibles, Testaments and portions totaling 12,035-133, the largest distribution in any year in the Society's history. According to the 115th annual report just published, the Society since its organization in 1816 has distributed 228,234,048 volumes of Scriptures. The year 1930 was the sixth year in succession in which the distribution surpassed that of the preceding year. The Society's work of translation, publication and distribution occurred in 285 languages.

AVIATORS LOSE FEAR PENNA'S MOUNTAINS

Flying apparently is becoming safer in Pennsylvania, whose Allegheny mountains have gained the name of "aviators graveyard" among air mail pilots.

Permanent discontinuance of four intermediate fields, used for emergency landings on the original transcontinental air mail route crossing Pennsylvania between New York and Cleveland, has been decided upon by the Department of Commerce

—Subscribe for the Watchman.