

COLLECTING SNAKE VENOM

A Regular Industry In Australia and Asia.

MOST DANGEROUS WORK

This Poison Commands Most Fabulous Price—World's Annual Production Less Than one Pound—Demand for it is Steadily Growing and Value Increases Correspondingly.

The fact that there exists among manufacturing chemists, or, at any rate, a section of them, a steady demand for snake venom, has long been known to the scientific world, but the purpose for which it is required has not been made public. Hitherto the supply has been obtained chiefly from Asia, but it has always been more or less uncertain in quantity and character. Recently, however, Australia has appeared as a competitor in the market, but to what extent cannot be readily ascertained, for snake venom, like radium, is measured by grains and commands an almost fabulous price, somewhere between \$5,000 and \$6,000 per pound. It is doubtful whether the world's annual production reaches that quantity, but a value of from 20s. to 25s. per grain will amply repay the collector. Possibly with further developments in medical science the demand will increase and add to a corresponding rise in price, he supply necessarily remaining limited.

The headquarters of the Australian supply are situated in Sydney, where the industry became established by a hillful naturalist, whose name, although unfamiliar to the general public, is one well known in scientific circles. He obtains the venom from various varieties of snake—the death adder, the brown adder, the black adder and the tiger, or brown banded adder. Each of these has to be caught unharmed, a task demanding considerable knowledge of the ways of snake life and no little skill in the work of capture. Snakes are plentiful in the wilder parts of the Commonwealth and constitute one of the dangers of bush traveling. They are less frequently met with in the vicinity of largely populated places, but a saucer of milk will sometimes reveal their previously unsuspected existence. Occasionally a bush fire will send numbers of them wagging with wonderful rapidity in all directions, when they become more dangerous than ever to meet. The tiger snake is the most useful to the poison collector, as it not only carries the largest amount of venom, but this, when extracted, is equal in killing power to that of the cobra. It is one of the most common of Australian snakes, and its deadly character is so widely known that when bitten by one a collector has no hesitation in chopping off the injured limb, death being the only alternative.

The manner in which the snake poison or serum is obtained possesses several features of interest. One method, both delicate and dangerous, is to extract in perfect form the venomous bag, tying the valve tightly, so as to prevent the escape of the poison. It is then placed in preserving fluid for export. Another method, invented by the collector, is simple and effective. It consists of a small apparatus held by a handle in one hand. In this a broad band of india rubber passes across a glass plate, a small space separating the two. The apparatus is placed opposite the head of the snake, the neck being held firmly by the other hand of the operator. On the reptile opening its jaws the end of the apparatus is inserted, when the snake immediately sees its poison fangs in the india rubber, leaving the marks of a couple of tiny dots where they penetrate the material. The poison discharged into the india rubber band sinks on the glass plate below, where it is carefully collected. When the snake removes its fangs from the apparatus it is placed in a cage, and the glass plate replaced by another, in readiness for the next snake.

The snakes are caught by men who have become exceedingly expert in the work, the chief supply being obtained from portions of the coast south of Sydney, and who claim that plentiful doses of undiluted whisky constitute an infallible cure for snake bite. The price of a snake ranges from a couple of shillings upward, some bringing as much as seven or eight shillings, and there are places in Sydney where students of natural history can obtain almost any kind required. The general method of catching a snake is by pressing a baton some five feet in length and four or five inches in width, down on the neck, until a hold of the back of the head can be obtained with the fingers. If a forked stick be employed here is a risk of the snake breaking its poison fangs while biting the wood. Of course great care has to be exercised in handling the venom, but up to the present no accident has ever been reported.

A Stern Rebuke.
Eddie—I dived a nail in the teacher's chair this mornin'. Gee, you ought to see him jump!
Tommy—I bet he won't set down for a spell.
Eddie—No, an' I won't neither—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

REDUCING NOISE IN CITIES.

Vibrations from Trains Deaden, and Musical Telephones.

One of the best office buildings in Berlin is that of a certain electrical firm. Whenever the telephone "rings" in that building it doesn't ring, it sings a musical note. This result is due to a Yankee. When the building was being completed a young telephone engineer from America, who was associated with the firm, was asked to install the telephone service. It was obviously appropriate that it should illustrate the best telephone practice, and to his mind this demanded the avoidance of the noise and nervous wear ordinarily produced by the telephone bell. He therefore substituted for this disquieting instrument a device which gives forth a soft musical note.

In some of the offices the innovation was welcomed, in others it was declined on the ground that this quiet sound would certainly not be heard. After a little time, however, it was found that the ear accustomed itself to notice the soft and agreeable sound with just as much precision as was secured by a harsh and startling sound. The result of a few months' experience was, therefore, that every rattling bell or buzzer was discarded for the "singing note," and the enhanced composure thus realized in the building was very material.

In the same city, when an elevated electric railway was recently being built, not only were all the plans of the company carefully scrutinized in advance by the municipal authorities, and those for the stations radically changed in the interest of street beauty, but special devices were also employed to deaden the vibration from trains.

The lesson from Berlin is, therefore, that, despite the demands of modern life in cities, noise can be reduced by attention, even in the case of these two pre-eminent offenders, the telephone bell and the elevated railway.—Chicago Record-Herald.

War Record of a Dog.

Unusual interest centered in a case heard in the Dublin police court, in which the leading figure was a bulldog that formerly belonged to Gen. Phillip Botha and went through a good portion of the South African war.

Ernest Warmingham, canteen manager for the contractors, was summoned for cruelty to the animal, which has been stationed for some time past with the Royal Irish rifles at Richmond barracks.

The bulldog, which now belongs to Color Sergt. Edwards, Royal Irish rifles, was accommodated with a seat in the witness box, from which point he seemed to take a laudible interest in the proceedings. He was dressed in a coat with green facings, and wore several South African medals clasps.

The animal's record is an eventful one. During the Boer war he was captured by the 2d Royal Irish rifles, mounted infantry, from Commandant Phillip Botha's farm in the Doornberg, in September, 1900.

From that time until the end of the war he trekked with the rifles' mounted force from Griqualand in the west to Basutoland in the east, and he still bears the scar of a wound received in action. Later he was with Gen. French's column in Cape Colony.

For his service the bulldog now wears the queen's South African medal with three clasps, and the king's South African medal with two clasps.—London Telegraph.

Queer Japan.

Japan is a queer country it is a land of contradictions and inversions. We prefer sweet fruit, they sour; they make saucepans of paper; we weep at misfortunes, they laugh; we think white teeth beautiful, Japanese ladies varnish their teeth black; they put on the roof of a house first, and build the walls up afterward; their carpenters draw the pane toward them; their horses' shoes are of straw; their tailors, in stitching, point the needle from them; in their locks their key turns from left to right. Old men in Japan fly kites and spin tops, while children look on; Japanese writers use painting brushes, not pens, and write from bottom to top, and from right to left; in Japan there are no lawyers, and Japanese doctors never make any charges, or send in any bills; our mourning garments are black, theirs white; and they mount a horse on the off side.—Ex.

Chinese Trees in London.

The Allanto, or Allanthus glandulosa, of which some 250 specimens are about to be planted in Kingsway and Aldwych, is a Chinese plant which is very hardy in England, and will probably be able to survive even the smoky atmosphere of London. It is largely used as food for the allanthus, or Cynthia silkworm, and is as ornamental as it is useful. It is a stately tree, with a straight trunk and magnificent foliage, the leaves being often more than three feet in length. The Russian government has planted a number near Odessa, and it appears to be the best tree for growth on the steppes. In France it is used as a timber tree, thriving on chalky soils. Probably no better choice could have been made for beautifying two of the finest streets in London, or the world.—London Chronicle.

WHITE MAN'S GRAVEYARD

Colorado Man's Description of African Gold Coast.

IN THE TRANSVAAL RAID

Says That the Colony of His Companions Rapidly Fading Away, Returning to Their Old Homes Owing to the Sickly Climate.

The Colorado colony in Africa is rapidly fading away. Illness caused by a sickly climate is causing the daring men who left here years ago to work the rich mines for English companies to return to their old homes where life is worth living. Following the return of J. H. S. Cox, former division superintendent of the tramway company, who arrived here recently after spending three years in Selkonda, on the west coast of Africa, in the gold coast colony, comes William Howard, who has been on the African gold coast thirteen years. He is but a shadow of his former self.

Mr. Howard was in the famous Transvaal raid with Jameson and escaped capture and death almost by a miracle. John Hays Hammond was his associate on many occasions and was with him in this raid. Hammond however was captured. For many years Mr. Howard enjoyed a salary of \$25,000 a year. He was employed by the Waseau Mining Company, of London, England, which owns valuable properties on the gold coast. When he left here thirteen years ago it was to go to the Dutch Republic. He had heard of the wonderful gold mines there, and, being of an adventurous disposition, he decided to try his fortune. His abilities as a mining man soon brought him to the attention of the English company, and he was engaged as their superintendent. He was so successful with their African mines that they sent him to India to look after their properties there.

After he had put them in shape he returned to the gold coast. There he met Mr. Wood, one of the Wood brothers of Colorado, and James Litchfield, a Denver man, who formerly was an extensive operator in this State. Both were doing well. There were six other Colorado men in the country, and all were successful. Some months before his return to the United States he met with an accident and broke three ribs. It was slow work recovering and when he was able to move about he decided to come back to Denver and spend the rest of his days here. Mr. Howard is still a young man and will return to his old occupation—mining. He says the gold coast is a white man's graveyard and he advises Colorado men to keep away.—Denver Times.

Bear Story From Maine.

Here is a bear story from South Paris: The other night Ira Murch of that village went to a pasture near the Stony Brook road after his cow. When well up into the pasture he stooped down to pick some strawberries and a little distance away heard a combined grunting and squealing sound. Looking up he beheld a large female bear with her family of three little cubs about two rods ahead of him. The mother bear was lying down, but got up slowly onto her forward feet and took a careful survey of Mr. Murch. He then tossed a small stick toward her, when she got onto her feet and walked away, closely followed by her babies. Mr. Murch says she was quite thin, but thinks she would weigh about 200 pounds. The cubs were, from his description, some eight or ten weeks old, and very cunning. Several boys armed with guns started Saturday in pursuit. So far as we know the boys got back alive.—Kennebec Journal.

Elephant Shot Dead by Octogenarian.

There are few shikaris in India who can ever hope to shoot an elephant after they pass the venerable age of fourscore years. This feat, I understand, performed by Mr. J. S. Middleton of the Cadamoney Estate, recently. I am told that the animal dropped with one shot. A 577 bullet, with seven drams of powder behind it, penetrated the forehead of the big beast.

I feel sure all planting sportsmen will join me in my congratulations to the grand old man of Munzerabad. Mr. Middleton enjoys the unique distinction of being the only planter who holds a license to shoot elephants.—Madras Mail.

Many Claims to Yankee Doodle.

Buckingham Smith, while secretary of the American Legation at Madrid, in 1858, wrote to an American gentleman that "Yankee Doodle's" music bore a strong resemblance to a popular air of Biscay and that a professor from Northern Spain had recognized it as being much like the ancient sword dance played on solemn occasions by the people of San Sebastian.

To checkmate Mr. Smith's enthusiastic claim for the origin of the tune, one has Louis Kossuth's account of his countrymen's behavior when, traveling with him on the Mississippi, they first heard Americans sing "Yankee Doodle."

Children in Scotland.

The healthiest children in the world live in the Scotch highlands. Few wear shoes before they are 12 years old.

Calico is named from Calicut, a city of India, whence it first came. It was not known in England until 1631.

Club women in San Francisco are to start a woman's municipal league.

THE SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

Road Poorly Constructed—Much Damage to Freight.

A correspondent writes from Moscow: The unsatisfactory manner in which the managements of the Siberian and particularly the Manchurian, railways discharge their obligations to the Russian trading community is the subject of bitter complaint. Trainload after trainload of goods dispatched from the Far East to Moscow has been blocked in transit at various points on the railway lines since their official "opening to traffic." A leading Russian importer of Chinese tea informs me that not only considerable inconvenience, but serious loss, has been caused to importers by the annoying breakdowns on the railways during the last six months, which my informant roundly declares are due in the main either to faulty construction of the line and its viaducts or to lack of railroad traffic organization. Several large cargoes of Chinese tea dispatched from the Pacific Coast for Moscow three months back only reached their destination a couple of weeks ago. The handling of the freight by the railway employees is most careless, damaged casings and packings being lamentably frequent. Collisions on the Siberian and Manchurian lines have, he adds, been so frequent that one might almost imagine the railway paid a premium to its drivers and pointsmen for reducing its rolling stock. The rolling stock itself he declares to be totally inadequate. Side by side with a Moscow-Port Arthur train de luxe, which compares to advantage with anything of the sort either in Europe, locomotives, and covered vans, and the general haphazard goods organization, stand out in a contrast which he describes as "truly Russian."

Many portions of the line through Siberia are stated to have been laid with a want of technical supervision, which is almost criminal. Some of the very bridges and viaducts which have given serious trouble under a by no means heavy traffic were built under the "supervision" of a contractor who, prior to their completion, found it expedient hurriedly to quit Russian territory for good, after making hundreds of thousands of rubles out of his contract by dishonest means. Nor, adds my informant, was this an isolated case. It has repeatedly been declared that a strict Government inquiry was to be held in St. Petersburg for the purpose of examining into various cases of official dishonesty and mismanagement in connection with the construction of the Transsian trunk line.

My informant declares that, in spite of the apparent advantage afforded by the specially differentiated duty on tea imported into European Russia through Odessa and Batum from Shanghai and Hong Kong by Volunteer Fleet steamer, the lamentable frictions, the damage in transit, and the delays in connection with tea and other cargoes carried over the Manchurian and Siberian railways bid fair to induce Russian importers for some time to come to give the new land route a wide berth. No such delays are experienced with cargoes brought by sea, which are delivered in good condition at Odessa quays in from twenty-four to twenty-eight days from Chinese ports of shipment. After the recent arbitrary appropriation by the Russian authorities for military transport purposes of a considerable portion of the rolling stock on the Siberian and Manchurian lines, and the temporary complete breakdown on the Manchurian system, the quantity of goods blocked at various points along the Transsian line reached close on five million pounds.

He is convinced that the line has a great future before it, but he is no less convinced that it will never succeed in competing successfully for many of the best cargoes with well-equipped steamer fleets plying through the Suez Canal. Moreover, he thinks it quite possible that the Siberian system may yet have to face the competition of a rival line in Asia. Something, he declares, has been heard in certain quarters in Russia of a project for the linking up of India with the plains of the Yangtze by means of an "all-red" line of rails. The possible extension of this railway at some future date until it becomes a competitive Transsian trunk line extending from the Pacific to Arabia, and practically linking up with the gigantic Cape Town to Cairo trunk line through Africa, has also been taken into account in the same quarters. In passing, I may be allowed to add that I have heard this project debated with interest in other circles in Russia besides those of commerce.—London Times Correspondence.

Japan's Naval Programme.

A notable naval event which slipped by without notice was the launching in Japan of the 3,000-ton cruiser Ottawa. Her completion will signalize the fulfillment of Japan's scheme of naval construction devised at the end of the Chinese war, which has raised the island empire into one of the great naval powers of the world. Most of the fleet was built in England, but Germany and the United States contributed certain ships, and Japan herself has built some. Henceforth, Japan will probably be able to handle all of her own naval construction.

The Toilers in Our Factories.

No workmen in the world can do so much or use the same intelligence that our own American workmen and women are capable of. That is why America is now leading the world in manufactures; all due to the brain and muscle of our Yankee men and women.



Unfortunately where there is smoke, dirt and dust and little sunlight there also can be found the germs of disease. Nature's great disinfectant is sunlight. It is in the factory, the workshop, the office, that men and women suffer from diseases which are in the dust and the bad air. Such disease germs enter into the blood in two ways, either through the lungs or stomach.

Because the stomach is diseased there is a diminution of the red corpuscles of the blood. This is why one is sleepless, languid, nervous and irritable. Sensitive stomachs groan aloud at the irritating cod liver oils, but they will get all the food elements the tissues require by using the "Golden Medical Discovery."

"Discovery" is absolutely a non-alcoholic and non-narcotic medicine. There is nothing else "just as good." Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets, the best laxative for old and young people. They cure constipation and biliousness.

Take a Trip West

Special Inducements This Season

Spend your vacation on the Pacific Coast or in almost any of the western states this summer at low cost. Round trip excursion tickets via Rock Island System are on sale certain dates throughout the summer. You can go out via Colorado, visiting Yellowstone Park and returning southern route by way of El Paso, or vice versa. A long return limit and cheap rates for side trips to every point of interest. Full particulars, literature and Rock Island folder, from John Sebastian, Passenger Traffic Manager Rock Island System, Chicago.

Parents in a Dilemma

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. McCarty, of Montgomery are the worst puzzled parents in Lycoming county. They cannot tell their twin boys apart except by tying a ribbon around the waist of one and letting the other go ribbonless. The babies are three months old, and they have named one Frank and the other Fred. Frank wears the ribbon, but the parents are in fear of somebody changing the marker or of it dropping off, in which event they could not tell which from the other.

A "Sovereign" That costs Only One Dollar

Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy, of Rondont, N. Y., is a "Sovereign" medicine for nervousness, Rheumatism, Kidney and Liver complaints and all the ills peculiar to women. It drives the poison from the blood, and restores the patient to the bloom of health. You will never regret the exchange of one dollar for a bottle.

A Word to Women

Any sick woman is invited to consult by letter with Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y. In active practice of more than thirty years, assisted by a staff of nearly a score of associate physicians, Dr. Pierce has treated and cured over half a million women. All diseases peculiar to women are treated with success. This consultation by letter is absolutely free. Every letter is treated as strictly private and sacredly confidential. Answers are mailed promptly giving the best of medical advice. All answers are sent in plain envelopes bearing on them no printing of any kind. Write without fear and without fee to Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

When the sexes have absolutely equal rights, will men wear head gear costing \$12.98 and kiss each other in public places when they meet?

HUMPHREYS' WITCH HAZEL OIL

FOR PILES, ONE APPLICATION BRINGS RELIEF. SAMPLE MAILED FREE.

At Druggists, 25 cents, or mailed. Humphreys' Medicine Co., Cor. William and John Streets, New York.

NERVOUS DEBILITY

Vital Weakness and Prostration from overwork and other causes. Humphreys' Homeopathic Specific No. 28, in use over 40 years, the only successful remedy. \$1 per vial, or special package for serious cases, \$5. Sold by Druggists, or sent prepaid on receipt of price. Humphreys' Med. Co., William & John Sts., N. Y.

RAILROAD NOTES

Special Excursions and Reduced Rates.—Of Interest to our Many Readers.

REDUCED RATES TO BUFFALO via Pennsylvania Railroad, account Grand Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. On account of the Grand Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at Buffalo, N. Y., July 11 to 15, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets to Buffalo from all stations on its lines at greatly reduced rates.

From Bradford, Pa., Sherman, Portville, Black Creek, and Salamanca, N. Y., and intermediate stations, tickets will be sold and good going July 10, 11, and 12, good returning until July 15, inclusive.

From all other stations on the Pennsylvania Railroad tickets will be sold and good going July 8, 9, and 10, good returning leaving Buffalo not later than July 15. By deposit of ticket with Joint Agent at Buffalo not later than July 15 and payment of fifty cents, an extension of return limit may be obtained to leave Buffalo not later than July 25.

A stop-over will be allowed at Philadelphia and Baltimore on return trip within final limit of ticket on all tickets good for passage via those cities.

For specific rates, routes, and further information, apply to Ticket Agents.

SPECIAL SUNDAY EXCURSIONS

to the seashore. Via Pennsylvania Railroad. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has arranged for four low-rate Sunday excursions for the present season from Williamsport, Sunbury and principal intermediate stations to Atlantic City, Cape May, Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Avalon, Anglesea, Wildwood or Holly Beach, on Sundays, July 16 and 30, August 13 and 27, 1905.

Excursion tickets, good returning on regular trains within five days will be sold at very low rates. Tickets to Atlantic City will be sold via the Delaware River Bridge Route, the only all-rail line, or via Market Street Wharf, Philadelphia.

Stop over can be had at Philadelphia, either going or returning, within limit of ticket.

For information in regard to specific rates and time of trains consult hand bills, or apply to agents, or E. S. Harrar, Division Ticket Agent, Williamsport, Pa.

REDUCED RATES TO THE SEASHORE.

Annual low-rate excursions to Atlantic City, etc., via Pennsylvania Railroad. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has arranged for four low-rate ten-day excursions for the present season from Lock Haven, Troy, Bellefonte, Williamsport, Mocaqua, Sunbury, Mt. Carmel, Shenandoah, Lykens, Dauphin and intermediate stations (including stations on branch roads), to Atlantic City, Cape May, Wildwood, Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Avalon, Anglesea, or Holy Beach, on Thursday, July 13 and 27, August 10 and 24, 1905.

Excursion tickets, good to return by regular trains within ten days, will be sold at very low rates. Tickets to Atlantic City will be sold via the Delaware River Bridge Route, the only all-rail line, or via Market Street Wharf, Philadelphia.

Stop over can be had at Philadelphia, either going or returning, within limit of ticket.

For information in regard to specific rates and time of trains consult hand bills, or apply to agents, or E. S. Harrar, Division Ticket Agent, Williamsport, Pa.

Interest in Food Laws.

The interest in the enforcement of food laws has become so widespread that the department of agriculture has been compelled, for self protection, to make a compilation of the names and addresses of the officials charged with the enforcement of these laws and of the chemists engaged in various capacities in the work. From this list, which has just been published, it is learned that at the present time a serious attempt is being made in 25 states and territories of the United States and in Hawaii and Porto Rico to enforce more or less extensive regulations relating to the purity and wholesomeness of food. The interest in this matter is growing and each year adds new states to the list of those which are taking an active part in the prevention of adulteration and misrepresentation of food products.

Appropriation Now Available

The Attorney General's Department has instructed Auditor General Snyder that the \$150,000 appropriated by the Legislature of 1901 for the erection of a Pennsylvania monument on the Gettysburg battlefield becomes available as soon as the Commission organizes and is ready to begin work.