

SUGAR A STRENGTHENER.

Russian Wrestler Declares It Adds to Height and Strength.

Various reasons have been assigned for the increase in stature and strength of the modern maiden, who has most certainly grown uncommonly tall and proportionately muscular during the past few years.

Time was when we should never have dreamed of having sweets on our luncheon, dinner and tea tables. Now it would be quite extraordinary were one not to offer these dainties.

The great Russian wrestler who is shortly to enter again into contest with the Turk, Madral, tells us that the more sweet stuff one eats the stronger one grows.

Indians' Deadly Foe.

"The full blooded Indians of the United States are scarcely holding their own in point of increase of population," remarked Capt. Downs, special Indian agent of the United States Government.

"In some of the tribes there is a slight increase, but it is among the mixed breeds and not among those of pure aboriginal stock.

"Just why this disease should seem to commit greater ravages among the Indians is difficult to understand. At first the theory was that it was due to their changed mode of existence; that the transition from a savage to civilized life made them peculiarly susceptible.

"A more reasonable explanation is found in the present habits of the people. In building their teepees or log houses they make very scant allowance for ventilation, and sleep in quarters from which fresh air is largely excluded.

One of the natural curiosities of Switzerland is Lake Morat, which turns blood red every tenth year. For centuries this freak was regarded by the Swiss with superstitious dread, and not until scientists turned their attention to the matter was the belief in the supernatural partly removed.

Every tenth year this plant begins to propagate, and so quickly does it grow that in a short time the whole lake is a crimson tide.

Business of an Empire. An idea of the cost of running a great nation may be gained from the statement that England's balance sheet for the last fiscal year shows an expenditure of considerably more than three-quarters of a billion dollars.

Madrid still has the medieval night watchmen. They admit late comers to the apartment houses at night, but no longer sing out the hour or the condition of the weather.

One-sixth of the members of Camp Nome, Arctic Brotherhood, are college graduates.

Roosevelt as a Bear Hunter.

Black Sort Not a Formidable Brute—Easily Loses Its Head.

Ordinarily, however, a black bear will not charge home, though he may bluster a good deal, snags the President. I once shot one very close up which made a most lamentable outcry, and seemed to lose its head, its efforts to escape resulting in its bounding about among the trees with such heedless hurry that I was easily able to kill it.

Another black bear, which I also shot at close quarters, came straight for my companions and myself, and almost ran over the white hunter who was with me.

However, when it found itself face to face with the white hunter, and only four or five feet away, it prepared for hostilities, and I think would have mauled him if I had not brained it with another bullet.

Ordinarily, my experience has been that bears were not furred when I suddenly came upon them. They impressed me as if they were always keeping in mind the place toward which they wished to retreat in the event of danger, and for this place, which was invariably a piece of rough ground or dense timber, they made off with all possible speed.

Frequently I have been able to watch bears for some time while myself unobserved. With other game I have very often done this even when within close range, not wishing to kill creatures needlessly, or without a good object; but with bears, my experience has been that chances to secure them come so seldom as to make it very distinctly worth while improving any that do come.

Edict Against the Almighty.

The conviction has long prevailed that boldness and resolution are innate in the Anglo-Saxon races, but a recent example of unheeded courage is offered by the mayor of one of the cities of Spain, who has openly challenged no less than the Almighty by publicly denouncing His behavior toward the mayor's province in the following interesting decree, translated from a Spanish journal:

"Whereas the Almighty has not behaved himself properly with regard to this province and city, inasmuch as only one rainstorm visited the country during the last year, and not a single time has it rained during this winter, in spite of prayers and processions, in detriment to the chestnut crops, on which the prosperity and progress of our province depends:

"Art. I. If within the peremptory term of a week, from the date of this decree, it should fail to rain abundantly, no one shall attend mass nor say prayers of any kind.

"Art. II. Should the drought continue for a term of eight days longer, all churches and chapels shall be burned and all objects of devotion and prayer destroyed.

For the first time in history the blind have now a weekly newspaper of their own. It is issued at a penny, and contains an excellent record of the events of the week, doings in parliament, the war in the East, and so on.

Calling must certainly have some influence over the physiognomy of the cabman, the omnibus driver, the butler, or the groom; each frequently possesses a type of face which wears so characteristic an expression as to make it not difficult to identify the vocation accompanying it.

A few years ago the President decided to appoint Mr. Wynne, now Consul General at London, to be First Assistant Postmaster General.

This was done, and the secret was carefully guarded for a month, although known all that time by fifty or more Washington correspondents.

The Laws in South Africa.

Boers Opposed to Black Man Being Represented.

The difficulties presented to the legislator in South Africa are greater than those in any other British colony or group of colonies. Foremost among them is the political position of the black races.

A far more difficult question was next considered, that of the representation of natives in the colonial parliament and in the future federal parliament. In the Cape Colony all who have the requisite qualification, European or native, possess the franchise.

The adoption of such a scheme would involve the curtailment of native rights in the Cape Colony and Rhodesia (where the Cape Colony system prevails) and the granting of the limited franchise to the natives in Natal, the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony, where they have hitherto had no vote.

The Boers, who are about half the population, are bitterly opposed to any sort of representation of black or colored men.

The Shah's Strange Fear. There was an element of humor in the interview which took place in Paris between the Shah of Persia and M. Curie, the French scientist.

"Your name and your great discovery are known to us in Persia," said the Shah, after the manner of an "Arabian Night" potentate addressing a magician.

"Sire," replied M. Curie, "I can satisfy your curiosity, but not here, for the light is too strong. In order that you may properly see the brilliance of radium I must show it in a room which is dark—entirely dark."

All the world's woodcutters might be millionaires if they knew how to gather up the twelve baskets of industrial crumbs as does a distilling plant in a Michigan town.

A Day's Doings in New York. Every 40 seconds an immigrant arrives. Every 3 minutes some one is arrested. Every 6 minutes a child is born.

Plants Affected by Ether. Ether and chloroform, so useful in sending men to sleep, have the very opposite effect on plants, which are stimulated to the greatest possible activity by these drugs.

Some Very Strange Dishes.

Savages Not Only Ones with Fastidious Tastes.

In America horse flesh is sold surreptitiously, masquerading as beef. In the markets of most European cities horse and mule flesh is sold openly, in some cases, however, being under the surveillance of the police.

A strong prejudice was manifested against eating horse flesh when its use was first proposed, but this feeling is rapidly vanishing, and hippopotamy is as common as beef eating.

Frogs are dearly prized by gourmets the world over. Snails are revoured in France, and help to tickle the jaded palate that has become cloyed with swollen goose liver and decayed salmon roes.

The aborigines of South America and Africa consider the guano, a large lizard, a great delicacy. These lizards are not unlike a small crocodile, but are far more unsightly than that creature.

In Australia several kinds of snakes are eaten roasted. They are said to be equal in delicacy and flavor to the finest stewed eels.

Some folks in Russia will pledge their friends in a goblet of unrefined train oil, and not so long ago dwellers on the American prairies esteemed a glass of buffalo's blood the richest drink on earth.

In the year 1787 a farmer laid a wager that he would eat two dozen penny mutton pies and drink a gallon of ale in half an hour, a feat which he easily performed well within the specified limit, says the Queen.

A few years later, when the prince regent was enlivening Brighton with his vagaries, the notorious Sir John Lade made his celebrated wager that he would carry Lord Cholmondeley on his back twice around the Steine.

In 1806 a curious wager was laid between two gentlemen as to who should assume the most singular character at a fancy dress ball.

The loser would certainly appear to have been more original still, for he appeared dressed like a woman on one side, one-half of his face being painted and the other half blackened to resemble that of a negro.

All the world's woodcutters might be millionaires if they knew how to gather up the twelve baskets of industrial crumbs as does a distilling plant in a Michigan town.

From one cord of this material there is made ten gallons of wood alcohol, 98 1/2 per cent being pure; 200 pounds of acetate of lime, quicklime being added for this purpose, and 50 bushels of charcoal.

The alcohol is worth 60 cents a gallon. The acetate of lime is worth 2 cents a pound and the charcoal is worth 10 cents a bushel.

Ether and chloroform, so useful in sending men to sleep, have the very opposite effect on plants, which are stimulated to the greatest possible activity by these drugs.

If You Want to Read Something Good.

A distinct Christmas flavor found in Lippincott's Magazine for December adds to the general interest which is never lacking.

The opening novelette, "Of the Lion's breed," is by Grace MacGowen Cooke in collaboration with Vond Reed; and it is good enough to indicate the quality of the seven shorter stories which follow.

"Josiah Allen's Wife" calls her amusing contribution "The Last Straw." This may prove illuminative to husbands.

Marion Harland once spent Christmas in Beth-lehem of Judea. She describes the Christmas ceremonies in the Church, which is built on the site of the Manger where Christ was born.

A paper on "The Modern Lyceum," by Paul M. Pearson supplies up-to-date information on this live subject; and Wimer Bedford, a Veteran, writes an anecdotic article on "Some Generals of the Civil War."

Christmas poems by Charles Hanson Towne and Clinton Scollard mark the glad season.

"Walnuts and Wine" have caught the prevailing happiness and reflect its spirit in joke and verselet.

This year's production of corn breaks all previous records.

The corn crop of 1905, according to the American Agriculturist of November 18th, approximates 2,700,000,000 bushels, making the largest ever produced.

A physician long in the field of practice says that you can keep a cellar dry by opening the north window and keeping the other windows closed.

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