

## MANY KINDS OF CURIOUS CHARMS

Tongues of Animals Are Still Favorite Amulets and Portend Good Luck

### THE VULTURE'S HEART POTENT

Heart of Dove for Faithful Woman—  
Pick that Drives Away Toothache—  
Halls of Elephants Bring Good Luck—  
—A Gruesome Mascot.

All the world over, in both uncivilized areas and such enlightened countries as Great Britain, there are many people who still place their implicit trust in a charm to bring them good fortune and in not a few cases will expect it to heal them of diseases. The tongues of animals have been and are still favorite amulets. A tongue cut from a living fox is said to ward off disease of all kinds, but as the person carrying it will surely die if he happens to meet a fox at any crossroads the charm is seldom used. The tongue of the vulture plucked out with iron and hung about a man's neck in a new cloth will bring him what he desires, and some Indians believe that if they do not bite off the tip of the tongue of any wild animal they kill they will not have good luck in hunting.

Feathers of birds too have also been used from earliest times to insure luck, good and evil. If the feathers of a vulture are burned the small drives away serpents and other evil spirits. If the feathers of the right wing of a blackbird are hung up in the middle of the house on a red thread which has never been used no one will be able to sleep in that house until the wing has been taken down. Esquimaux court good favor by fixing feathers from the golden eagle at the bows of their boats.

Friends can also be frightened away by means of a vulture's heart bound up in a lion or wolf skin. The head of a kite bird worn on the breast, according to our forefathers, brought the love and favor of all men and women, while if the heart of an owl was laid on the left side of a sleeping woman she would confess to all the wrong she had done. If a woman wore the heart of a turtle dove wrapped in the skin of a wolf she would never after be faithful. The Irish believe that to nail a bat over the house prevents the magician from entering. A saying which curiously is still current, is that if one picks his teeth with the nail of the middle toe of an owl he will never have the toothache.

The natives of Bernia in West Africa keep the bones and nails of elephants as charms for good luck. The people of Upper Egypt prize very highly the tufts of hair from the mane of the hyena, and the skin of this animal will secure for the possessor love and faithfulness of a husband or wife as well as the favor of the great.

The Singhalese believe the monkey to be entitled to sacred honors, and that any house built on the bones of one of these animals will be cursed. The visitor to Mourzak, in Central Africa, will be somewhat surprised to see the heads of asses arranged around the gardens of the natives. These are placed there to ward off evil spirits. The Chinese sleep quite peacefully at night if an image of a cat is on the roof of the house.

Sufferers from gout have been known to wear tied around their legs a blue ribbon which is studded with shells of gray snails. This is said to allay the pain. Lord Bacon says "a band of green periwinkles tied about the calf of the leg" or "wearing on the finger rings made of seahorse teeth" will cure cramp. So firm is the trust of the natives in these charms that in some parts of the world they are never known to take medicine. In Central Africa, for instance, the natives simply cut their nails and tying them to the back of a crawfish throw the crustacean over their shoulder into the river or sea without looking at it, believing the disease will go.

Gambler's are among the most superstitious people to be found and scarcely any will dare to enter the Casino without their favorite charm. A gruesome little mascot took the form of the right forefinger bones of a man who was the seventh son of a seventh son. This, strangely enough, was carried by a well known theatrical lady in the form of a brooch when she visited Monte Carlo.

Among others of special interest are catkins, which are worn from the neck; a human knee bone, an owl's heart, a small red feather and the tail of a lizard.

#### French Oyster Gatherers.

The work of oyster collecting and culture is most unsuitable for women, but in France, owing to its tedious nature, it does not appeal to men. Often, from an early hour in the morning till late in the evening, the women are standing up to the knees in water, with a strong sun beating down on them. The result is that never a year passed without some of them going mad and having to be hurried away to the asylums. The work is well paid, as, indeed, it ought to be, while in the case of the few who own beds the profits are large and small fortunes are gathered.

### EXPENSIVE TO INHERIT MONEY.

In Italy Man Had to Pay Government More Than He Got.

In Italy it appears to be a somewhat expensive affair to inherit money, that is, if it be a small sum. Not long ago a young man died in the little town of Romagna, who left one lire fifty-eight centesimi, or not quite 34 cents. This sum, which had been deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank, became the property of the young man's father. As the amount was so small the father thought it unnecessary to make a declaration of the legacy as the law prescribes, especially as the stamped paper on which the declaration must be made would cost about 22 centesimi more than the money involved.

Three months afterward he received a demand from the local State Treasury for the payment of 14 lire 48 centesimi—nearly \$3. Thinking a mistake had been made, he took no notice of this demand, with the result that later an official called upon him and demanded the immediate payment of 18 lire—\$3.50. The father had not sufficient money in hand, so the official took possession of the man's furniture. The cost of this seizure brought the total sum to 30 lire, which the poor man had to pay that same evening to avoid the sale of his goods by auction.

#### Cork Thrift.

Because the world's supply of cork is rapidly diminishing, the cork requisite in the big hotels and restaurants is now a valuable privilege. They are no longer thrown away, but are put in a box or barrel, where they accumulate until the cork picker comes around and pays a round sum in cash for all offered to him. The waiter now employs corkscrews which inflict the minimum amount of damage upon the cork, and in many places where large numbers of corks are extracted in a day a steel cork extractor is used.

Large corks may be recut with considerable profit. Others, which have been injured, can be cut so as to discard the injured portions and utilize that which is sound. Corks which have been discolored by grease can be cleaned by benzine, ammonia or lime and water. Those which have been discolored or flavored by medicine can be rendered usable by long continued boiling with a small quantity of chloride of lime and subsequent drying in a kiln or oven. The finest quality come from champagne bottles, and always command a good price. It is possible to reuse them, and it is said that this is done by manufacturers both here and abroad.

#### Trewin's Big Head.

"Excuse me, sir, but I guess you took my hat from the dining-room rack," said a gentleman with an Eastern accent as he tapped his finger on the shoulder of Senator James Trewin, of Cedar Rapids, who was Governor Cummings' chief opponent for nomination on the republican ticket two years ago.

"Well, I declare," responded the Senator, as he took off the eight and one-half size hat and looked at the inside. "I did not believe there was another man in the hotel with a head as large as mine. I beg your pardon. Senator Trewin is my name. I am practicing law here."

"Indeed?" queried the stranger. "I am looking for a lawyer, and one with a head as large as mine ought to serve my purpose." He called the Senator aside and after a short conference placed in his hands the fattest case that has ever been tried in Linn County so far as fees are concerned.

#### The Magician's Coat.

Nearly every one has seen at some time the men of magic doing their



wonderful tricks, producing articles from the air, as it would seem. Many of us have said, "He has it hidden, but where?" The answer is shown in our illustration. Who would think the innocent dress coat could be the means of deception, but if you will notice the many pockets and the convenient spots where they are placed, one can then see that our conjurers are only mortal after all, and the old adage, "Practice makes perfect" is the key note of his success.

#### Curiosity of Nature.

Chemists at one time believed that petroleum was formed in the depths of the earth by the action of water working on metallic carbons in a state of fusion. Now this statement is challenged by some geologists, who contend that petroleum is the result of the putrefaction of animals which ages ago were swallowed in enormous cataclysms, similar to that at Mount Pelee. This upheaval, says Prof. Engler, buried millions of prehistoric monsters, and during all the cycles of years that have elapsed since then the bodies of these animals have been distilled by Mother Nature in her immense laboratory beneath the earth's surface. The result of this distillation, according to this theory, is petroleum.

## THE BELLBOY THUG

Definite Type Criminal Bred by the Hotel Madness.

A definite type of twentieth century criminal, bred of the hotel madness that reigns in New York, is the bellboy thug. Simeon Ford was author of that profane truth that there wasn't another vacant corner lot left in New York City, but that, if there was, some fool was sure to put up another hotel on it. The vast number of hotels has created a great demand for help, especially bellboys. A big proportion of them depend for their livings on the tips they receive from guests.

These employees frequently herd together in lodging houses and boarding places, where their unionism has developed into a sort of Black Hand organization against those who do not come up to their schedule in the way of fees. A guest is blacklisted and fails to get his papers, letters and packages. His calls are unanswered, he receives impertinence of the grossest kind, and even the gentle offices of the chambermaid are withheld, for sometimes the maids work in with the clan. All sensible persons submit to the extortion, as it is cheaper in the end by far. But, unfortunately, it only makes the bellboy thug more daring and insolent in his demands.

An invaluable ally of the outside crook can be the bellboy if he is not in the business for himself. He has every means of studying his victim's habits, his comings and goings, the state of his pocketbook and also the conditions in which seeing the town may place strangers. Women who are beyond the pale, especially women of the badger class, will pay these youngsters well to aid them in their schemes.

The attitude of some hotels in hiding the unpleasant happenings that take place within their walls are the great incentive to jewel robberies and the theft of money that are constantly going down on the police blotters. These crimes may bear all the marks of having been committed by an employee, but they appear luridly as perpetrated by "masked men" and "fire-escape thieves." One hotel detective once had the reputation of arranging introductions for the sharps of various kinds that hang around public places, fortune tellers, promoters of queer ventures, gambling tents—all the varieties of well dressed rogues that are on the hunt for victims.

#### Righteous Indignation.

Jacob DeCou of Chanute, claim agent for the Santa Fe Railroad on the Southern Kansas division, recently received a letter from a friend in New Mexico, who is the Santa Fe agent there. Inclosed was a copy of a complaint recently turned over to him. It follows:

"Dear Sir—Dir your injineer tell you he has killed too couese belongin to me, he said he would tell you and the konduktor too thay killed them tonite as they cam acros the road at my plais where I have got a crosin and when I put my crosin in you sed you was puttin a fense on eche side of the rode that wud keep criters from gettin killed you put up a hel of a fense too cafs broak it to kindelin wood a our after you fense gang went down the road—your injineer ott to be fired he knos there is a graid thare and he comes down thare hel bent every nite—the couese he killed was yerelin heffers—brand bar J bar swallow fork on rite ear and left ear underhacked—I want the money for the couese my criters is all I have on urth to live on and if your injineer can kill one every time he gets drunk all I say is this United States has gon to the devil the couese will be 50 dolers hoping you are wel."

#### Embarrassing Travel.

Two girls relating their experiences in Japan, in "The Wide World Magazine," gives a glimpse of travelling by night by rail in the country of the chrysanthemum. They write: "The train was crowded with Japanese, and when night came the long seat was divided up into portions, the upper berths were pulled down, and we all huddled into our respective bunks, men and women mixed up together. It was distinctly trying to be obliged to hoist one's self up into a high upper berth before a mixed assembly, and more trying still to descend in the morning with the very incomplete toilet which one was enabled to make in a reclining position, but the blissful ignorance of our Japanese neighbor that there was anything unusual in such a proceeding considerably relieved our embarrassment. His attitude and calm matter of factness were very reassuring, and the wonderfully cheerful conductor who brushed our clothes and fastened our blouses seemed to consider himself specially suited for the post of lady's maid."

#### Anxious to Please.

A clergyman was about to leave his church one evening when he encountered an old lady examining the carving on the font. Finding her desirous of seeing the beauties of the church, he volunteered to show her over, and the flustered old lady, much gratified at this unexpected offer of a personally-conducted tour, shyly accepted it. By and by they came to a handsome tablet on the right of the pulpit.

"That," explained the good man, "is a memorial tablet erected to the memory of the late vicar."

"There, now! Ain't it beautiful?" exclaimed the admiring old lady, still flustered and anxious to please. "And I'm sure, sir, I hope it won't be long before we see one erected to you on the other side."

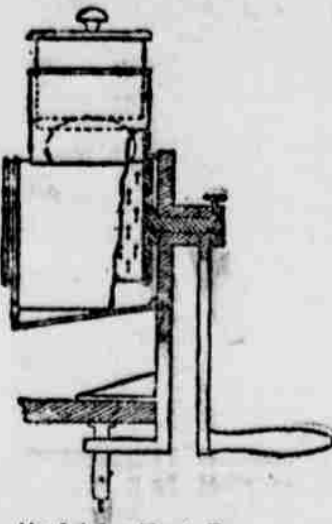
## Notes and Comment

Of Interest to Women Readers

### VEGETABLE GRATER.

Grinds Potatoes, Turnips, Etc., Into Small Particles.

It is really surprising what a large proportion of inventions are designed for use in that small but always important room, the kitchen. One of the most useful of these is the vegetable grater designed by an Ohio man. With

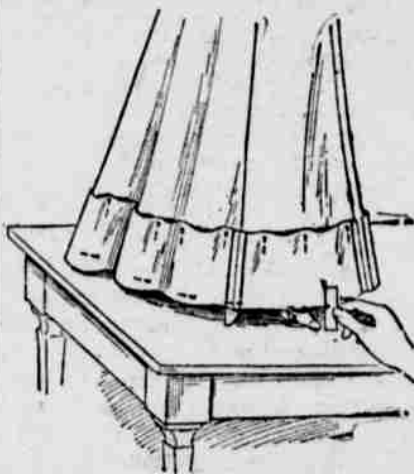


Useful for Meat, Too.

It vegetables or meat can be ground into fine particles by the expenditure of very little energy. This machine is made on the principle of a mill, and is clamped to the edge of a table. A hopper leads to a casing, in which a cylinder revolves, and below which is turned by means of a handle, is nearly as large as the casing and is fitted with two sets of teeth, inclined in opposite directions. One set is coarser than the other, and when the cylinder is turned the other way. The vegetables or meat to be ground are placed in the hopper, and as they fall into the receptacle below the cylinder crushes them, the small pieces falling into a dish placed below.—Philadelphia Record.

#### To Hang a Skirt.

Lay the dress on the table and pin the bottom up on the outside of the skirt six and three-eighths inches. This is the amount that will be taken up by the tucks and finish around the bottom of the skirt. The skirt is hung, however, before the tucks are put in, and I think I can make it quite clear to you why this must be so. Many people have a slight irregularity in the size of their hips; others have prominent abdomens or flat backs. These things will prevent a skirt from hanging absolutely even at the first



#### To Keep the Skirt Bottom Even.

Sitting. If any change is made in the bottom of the skirt a corresponding change must be made in the position of the tucks. For instance, suppose one hip is much larger than the other. The skirt would have to be lengthened over that hip and the tucks lowered in that one place to keep the line even.

After you have pinned up the bottom of the skirt, put on the dress and have it carefully fastened, especially at the girdle. The best way to have the skirt hung is to stand on a table and let some one measure one, two or three inches from the table up on the skirt, as shown in the illustration.

Use a piece of cardboard with the desired distance from the floor nicked in it. The person who is hanging the skirt should move around it, marking every few inches with pins. When the dress is taken off, turn it inside out and baste an even line through these marks on the skirt only—not through the turned-up portion.

#### Climbing Stairs is Good Exercise.

Climbing stairs is avoided by most women as an unsafe exercise. Yet it is detrimental because of the bad way in which it is done. The body works to its best advantage in lifting its own weight, as in hill-climbing. In mounting stairs, let the chest lead, the body remaining normally erect; use the stair as a base upon which the spring in the ball of the foot lifts its weight. With a full breath lift the body as though by the elevation of the chest. There is a buoyance attending this exercise which removes from it much of its bad effects.

#### Hair Coloring.

Logwood, 3 ounces; boiling water, 1 pint.  
Boil together for half an hour, keeping to the quantity of water, then strain and when cool add:  
Bay rum, 8 ounces; oil of lavender, 1 dram; glycerine, 4 ounces.  
Apply to the hair with a brush, being careful not to touch the scalp.

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