

SADDEST ROOM IN ALL NEW YORK

Its One Cradle Receives Over Two Thousand Abandoned Babies Every Year

NO QUESTIONS ASKED MOTHERS

But When She Puts the Infant Down in the Receiving Room and Goes Out the Open Door the Child Ceases to Be Hers.

In a niche above a doorway in a great building in uptown, New York City, is a marble statue of a woman holding a little child close to her breast. Beneath her, through a door that has not been locked in forty years, women pass in to the Foundling Hospital with their babies in the arms and come out with their arms empty.

A single white cradle in the entry of a bare reception room receives and rescues nearly two thousand babies a year, says Pearson's Magazine. The room where the mothers relinquish their babies is called the saddest place in New York.

There is nothing in the receiving room but the little cradle and no one in sight, though a matron is always in waiting near by. She never forces a mother to confession but if possible persuades her to tell why she wishes to desert her child and perhaps influences her not to give it up but to begin life over again. A mother must understand that the choice is with her. The matron may give the mother ten or fifteen minutes in which to decide, but the choice is final.

If the mother wishes it and it can be arranged she is often taken into the hospital with her baby and allowed to nurse it by having charge of another of the tiny children and helping with one older child. There are now 300 mother nurses working in the New York home, and there have been 500 or 600 at other times.

The mother who comes into the hospital to work can often prove her fitness to have her baby back again, but once she puts it down in the rescue cradle and goes out the open door the baby belongs to her no longer; she may never see or hear of it again.

There are 600 indoor babies being cared for inside the New York City Foundling Home. It is necessary to board on the outside 1,200 more. Seven thousand four hundred and twenty-four little foundlings have been looked after in the last two years, and there are relatively as many in Boston, in Chicago, in Philadelphia—in every large city in America.

In Europe there is an even greater number of foundling babies. The European States take charge of the deserted waifs, but the mother is only permitted to bring her child to an entrance way, ring a bell and give it into the arms of the attendant who opens the door, and go away without a word.

Two agents, whose work it is to find mothers and fathers for the waiting babies are a part of the regular staff of the Foundling Home. They work through other agents all over the country, through churches and missions and children's aid societies; the appeal is universal. Do you want a baby? Descriptions and requirements may be written to the staff at the hospital, and you may have just the baby you are looking for.

You may require the color of hair, eyes, or even specify the disposition. Usually the asylum has more orders than it can fill. Girls are asked in about twice the ratio of boys. Blue eyed girls are the greatest in demand, and a sweet disposition is almost always one of the specifications.

In the last three years 3,352 babies have found permanent homes throughout the country. More than 1,000 more have been given back to their own mothers who showed in the hospital their right to have their babies returned to them.

Four or five times a year forty or fifty babies start off in a little band in quest of homes. The babies are kept in the Foundling Home that somewhere waiting for them in the world outside are mothers and fathers. Some day they are to go to find them.

Nurses and attendants travel with the babies, who are distributed to agents who wait to place them in homes along the way. But the child is not to lose its connection with the Foundling Home. Until the children are grown they are still looked after and their care and future guarded by the supervision of the agents who make yearly visits to their homes, and the matrons who keep in constant communication with them.

When Marriage is Justifiable. The increase of population comes largely from those who live in modest circumstances, on daily wages. Many of them accumulate something; on the average, more of them accumulate than those who spend so much for social appearances. But the unfortunate thing is that so many young persons marry with little or nothing and with the most hazy prospects in life. The young man should marry when he has accumulated a little and has good prospects. The girl should marry only when she is willing to live well within her husband's income and help him to save. A man is made or lost according to the temperament of his wife.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

RATTLESNAKE ISLAND

Lake Winnepesaukee's Rattlers All Concentrated in One Spot.

One of those strange freaks of animal and reptile distribution that puzzle the naturalist is found on Rattlesnake Island in Lake Winnepesaukee, N. H. The lake contains fifty-seven islands of all sizes, from a few square feet to hundreds of acres, but only on Rattlesnake is there to be found anything more alarming than the harmless and pretty garter snake, says an exchange. The country surrounding the lake is mountainous and well wooded, but it is free from snakes. Rattlesnake Island has a monopoly of rattlers.

The island is one of the largest in the lake as well as the most picturesque. Its name forbids trespass and it remains to-day as a virgin as when the Indians gave the lake its musical name.

Just why the snakes should have chosen this particular island for their abode is a mystery, although an event of a few years ago made it clear how they might have reached it. Rattlesnake Island is some miles out from the mainland and several hundred yards from any other island. Some years ago a fisherman, bolder than his fellows, landed on the island and there cooked his lunch.

Perhaps he was a bit nervous, for he forgot to put out his fire and the wind fanned it into a blaze. A large part of the island was burned over and during the next few days many rattlesnakes were found on the mainland and the neighboring island. Within a week, however, the snakes were gone from the mainland, and not one snake of a venomous kind has been found outside of Rattlesnake Id and since then.

The snakes confine themselves to the rocky cliffs that form the uplands of the island and are seldom seen. One doubting Thomas who reasoned that there couldn't be any snakes on the island because he had never seen any, went ashore there one day and tramped about in his bare feet. As luck would have it he never saw a snake. The barefooted explorer nearly fainted the next day when a friend armed with a shotgun explored the place and came back with a five-foot rattler.

This led to the organization of a hunting party. The hunters wore high boots and looked the ground over carefully before taking a step. They found snakes in abundance and the numbers of the rattlers got on their nerves. After killing five unusually large snakes the party chose a large flat rock near the water's edge and well out of the snakes' habitat for a resting place.

One of the hunters is a professor in a New York college. He doesn't teach natural history and his knowledge of outdoor life is not very extensive. As he sat munching a sandwich a cicada set up its shrill cry.

Still holding firmly to the sandwich, the professor gave a wild leap that landed him in the lake. The cold water and the laughter of his friends restored his reasoning faculties, but he is still of the opinion that all the snake skins in creation would not tempt him to visit Rattlesnake Island again.

The beauty of the island has caused many people to covet it as the site for a summer home and the suggestion has been made to import a herd of hogs to exterminate the snakes.

Observing the Routine. Certain of the theatres in Russia are under the control of the State and the actors are, therefore, subject to government control. A famous dancer at one of these theatres desired to secure a month's leave of absence in order to recover her health by a tour of the provinces. She accordingly went to the government official to obtain the usual permission. He received her politely, and asked for her written application.

"I have no written application," was the answer. "I had no idea such a thing was necessary."

"Not necessary, madame?" replied the official. "Why nothing can be done without it!"

"What am I to do then?"

"Here are pen and paper. Be so good as to sit down and write what I dictate."

She sat down and the petition was written, signed and folded.

"And now," said the representative of the State, "you have only to deliver it."

"To whom?" she asked.

"To whom?" repeated the official, with a smile at her simplicity. "To me, of course."

Then taking the petition which he himself had dictated, he produced his spectacles, wiped them, and carefully adjusting them upon his nose, read over the whole document as if he had never seen it before. He did it in due form, and then turning to the impatient danseuse, said with the utmost gravity:

"Madame, I have read your petition, and regret exceedingly that I cannot grant it."

Dr. Johnson on Good Breeding. When Boswell suggested to Johnson that "Gen. Paoli," whom they had just left, "had the loftiest part of any man he had ever seen," Johnson denied that military men were always the best bred men. "Perfect good breeding," he said, "consists in having no particular mark of any profession, but a general elegance of manners; whereas, in a military man, you can commonly distinguish the brand of soldier."

Her Company. Don't judge a woman by the company she is compelled to entertain.

THE OCEAN CABLE CAUGHT A WHALE

The Limit in Fish Stories Has Just Been Received from Far-away Chile

LEVIATHAN HELD EIGHT MONTHS

Cable Wouldn't Work—Repair Ship Sent Out Fishing—Dragged to Surface Whale with Three Turns of Cable Around Its Body.

In November last an officer of the Central and South American Telegraph Company called on the director of the New York Aquarium with a letter from the electrical engineer of the company, who desired to know to what depth a whale could descend and whether an air breathing mammal could stand a water pressure of nearly half a ton to the square inch.

These inquiries were prompted by an interruption of the submarine cable between Iquique and Valparaiso, Chile, which occurred on August 14 last and which was caused by a large whale that was afterward drawn to the surface by the repair steamer Feraday from a depth of 400 fathoms. An article in the New York Zoological Society's Bulletin, an aquarium number, from which the above facts are taken, continues:

The cable in which the whale was entangled weighed in air, while wet, 1,715 tons per nautical mile and had a breaking strain of 6,000 tons. The weight in salt water was 1,065 tons per nautical mile.

If the whale came to the surface to blow, he must have held two or three miles of cable in suspension. This, however, is unlikely, since it had four turns of the cable around its body, one being in its mouth.

When the trouble with the cable was discovered, tests from Valparaiso and Iquique placed the break about thirteen miles from the latter place. On August 16 the Feraday left Iquique for the position of the break and began grappling in 342 fathoms, with 500 fathoms of rope out.

The cable was hove up, cut and tested to Iquique. The end was buoyed, and the ship, grappling further out, picked up the cable, which came in badly twisted and with increasing strain.

A large whale was brought to the surface completely entangled in the cable. The stench being unendurable, the cable was cut close to the whale and the vessel moved to windward.

Tests were made and Valparaiso spoken. The ship made four soundings in the vicinity which showed a depth of 415 fathoms (2,490 feet, nearly half a mile).

It is extremely doubtful whether an air breathing animal can go as deep as 400 fathoms, and as that depth is much below the limit of pelagic life, on which most whales feed, it is not likely that the whale would penetrate such a depth. Total darkness, moreover, prevails in depths of 400 fathoms.

According to the records of whalers, whales have been known to stay under water more than an hour and after being harpooned to have carried out a mile of line before reappearing at the surface, although this does not necessarily mean that the line was carried down vertically.

The Valparaiso-Iquique cable was laid on January 27, 1905. At first sight it seems unlikely that the whale entangled in this cable could have remained eight months without complete disintegration or being gradually consumed by small forms of life on the bottom.

The deep sea, however, is intensely cold, the temperature being close to the freezing point of fresh water, and the carcass, unless actively attacked by bottom life, might be expected to last longer than in the warmest surface waters.

Since, from what we know of air breathing animals, it is unlikely that the whale would descend 400 fathoms of its own accord, and as a deep sea cable is not laid very slack, it is doubtful that the whale could have fouled it at the bottom.

The logical conclusion is that it became entangled during the laying of the cable, eight months before, when there was a considerable length of it in suspension. The twisted condition of the stiff and heavy cable about the animal shows that the energy expended in the vain effort to free itself must have been enormous.

Real Thrillers. "Talk of dime novels!" exclaimed the insurance man. "You ought to read a Pinkerton report on an insurance case if you want a thriller. Our company carries a great deal of burglary insurance, and, of course, when a robbery occurs to any of our customers we put detectives on the case. The reports that these men send in are simple statements of facts, boiled down hard, and containing nothing but what is absolutely essential to the business, but for intense interest they beat any novel I ever read or expect to read. Occasionally after a case is finished and has become ancient history I get out these reports and read them to a group of friends, and no play can hold a more absorbed audience. The actual trailing of a criminal by detectives and the marvels of ingenuity on both sides are world beaters for dramatic situations and excitement."

THE AGRA DIAMOND.

Ingenious Method by Which It Was Smuggled to England by an Army Horse.

In addition to the monster premier diamond there is another well-known gem under the spotlight just now. This is the Agra diamond, which was recently sold at auction in a London saleroom. Like many other diamonds, this stone has had adventures. It gets its name from the fact that it was taken at the battle of Agra in 1526 by the Emperor Baber, who was the founder of the Mogul empire in India. The marquis of Donnell was in Agra in 1857 when the diamond was taken from the king of Delhi. Donnell was at the time engaged as secretary and belonged to the same regiment as the young officer who obtained possession of the diamond. It was resolved among them to smuggle it home to England rather than give it up and to share in the loot money. The question arose, how were they to get it home.

No one seemed able to hit upon a method that would be likely to meet with success until the last evening previous to the departure of the regiment. During the course of dinner the youngest subaltern suddenly jumped up and said: "I have it, we will conceal the diamond in a horse's ball and make the horse swallow it." This met with general approbation, a bail was secured, the inside scooped out, the diamond inserted, the end stopped up, and the horse made to swallow it.

When the regiment reached the port of embarkation the horse was taken ill and had to be shot. The diamond was taken from his stomach and brought over to England. It was subsequently sold to the duke of Brunswick and since then it has been recut from a 66-carat stone to 31 1/2 carats in order to get rid of the black spots in it, and it is the most perfect and brilliant diamond of a rose pink color.—Chicago News.

Bank Notes Stand Much Handling.

That Uncle Sam's notes stand a great deal of rough and careless handling is a fact that impresses itself upon any one who has ever chanced to note the manner in which the average cashier pulls and jerks the bills before he pushes them through the window to the waiting patron.

A single treasury note measures 3 1/2 inches in width by 7 1/4 inches in length. It will sustain, without breaking, lengthwise, a weight of 41 pounds; crosswise, a weight of 91 pounds. The notes run four to a sheet—a sheet being 8 1/4 inches wide by 13 1/2 inches long. One of these sheets lengthwise will suspend 108 pounds, and crosswise 177 pounds.

It will be observed that a single note is capable of sustaining, crosswise, a weight of 91 pounds, which is twice the amount, by nine pounds, of the weight the note can sustain lengthwise; while in the case of the sheet, the crosswise sheet lacks 39 pounds of double the sustaining power of the lengthwise sheet.—Philadelphia Record.

Depth Penetrated by Torpedoes.

A torpedo was fired recently from the after starboard tube of the flagship Wisconsin of the Asiatic squadron. It went straight until within 100 yards from the ship, when it dived and buried itself in the mud. Until the propellers stopped it created a black whirlpool where it was burrowing into the bottom. A buoy was dropped and native divers were dispatched to the scene. Some hours later the torpedo was located and returned to the ship. The tail of the little destroyer was buried six feet beneath the mud and it was a difficult task for the diver to make a line fast to it.

The Paper Cutting.

This piece of paper cutting has been in the possession of a family for 100 years:



Rivets in Modern Steamships.

The important part which rivets play in the construction of modern steel steamships is well illustrated by the fact that in the new Cunard liner Caronia, the largest ship ever constructed in Great Britain, no fewer than 1,800,000 rivets were used, the total weight represented being about six hundred tons. The greater part of the riveting work was done by hydraulic power.

The largest stone ever quarried came from a granite ledge in Maine, to serve as one of the columns to support the dome of an Episcopal cathedral in New York. The stone was 64 feet long, eight and one-half feet thick and seven feet wide, its weight being 310 tons.

Helpful Beauty Hints

Valuable Hints that Every Woman Should Grasp—How to Keep Young—For Red Lips—Lotion to Relieve Red Nose—Salt for the Teeth—Pomade for Reducing Thick Lips.

The best wash for the hair is soap bark. Salt water used as a gargle will strengthen the throat and harden the gums; used as a wash it will strengthen weak eyes; used in the bath it is a tonic; as a lotion for the hair it prevents and stops its falling.

The hot curling iron dries and hardens the hair so that after a time the hair has a colorless dead appearance. Never clip or trim the eyelashes, or eyebrows. It makes them coarse and stubby.

A lotion of lemon juice and glycerine applied several times a day will reduce large pores on the nose and chin.

To remove superfluous hair, get a toilet pumice stone from the drug store; lather the part with a good soap and rub the pumice stone over it. Wash the lather off and apply cold cream. Do this every day until the hair is gone.

In the facial massage, always make the motions circular, up and out, never down.

"Is it true that automobilizing hurts the face?" It is undoubtedly true; but most chaps who are hurt don't know it.

Health Notes for Women.

Eat plenty of spinach and dandelion greens. These are valuable on account of their laxative effects.

The best remedy for red cheeks is deep breathing in fresh air, night as well as day time.

Braid the hair at night in two braids. Tie but do not turn up the ends.

Thin eye brows may be made luxuriant by the rubbing in of olive oil. Keep up for some time.

The time for a cold bath is before breakfast.

After much discussion, it finally seems to be decided that a nap after the mid-day meal is beneficial to digestion, and to be encouraged where possible.

The cause of constant yawning is lack of oxygen. A walk in the fresh air often relieves it.

A fever blister touched with a drop of sweet spirits of nitre will disappear.

To Keep from Growing Old.

Many women become middle aged from the simple reason that they allow middle-aged habits to steal upon them and relapse into a state of physical indolence just at a time when they should fight against this tendency to give up exercise. "The best preventives against growing middle aged," says a charming woman of 45, whose unwrinkled face and slim figure give her the appearance of being at least 15 years younger than her real age, "are cheerfulness, a strict determination not to worry over trifles, and a sense of humor that save one from depression. A cold tub every morning, a walk every day in rain or sunshine, face massage with cold cream at night, ten minutes' physical exercise immediately on rising, friction of the hair to stimulate its growth, will keep any woman free from wrinkles and will preserve the contour of her figure."

Red Lip Salve.

Cinderella.—My lips are pale and purplish and not a good color. Would you recommend the use of a red lip salve?

To redden the lips artificially would detract from your looks rather than help matters very much by massaging the lips and applying camphor and vaseline in the manner just described. Rub the lips with the finger tips, which stimulates the circulation. Pallor of the lips indicates a lowering of the tone of the whole body, and shows that you need a tonic.

For a Red Nose.

If your nose is somewhat swollen and red, try this formula:

Muriate of ammonia, 1 dram; Tannic acid, 1-2 dram; Glycerine, 2 ounces; Rose water, 3 ounces.

Dissolve the muriate and acid in the glycerine and add the water. Saturate a piece of absorbent cotton with the lotion and bind on the nose every night until the trouble is relieved.

Salt for the Teeth.

I have read that salt is good for the teeth. What kind of salt should be used, and how often?—P. L.

The salt used on the teeth should be finely powdered table salt, for if it is too coarse it is apt to scratch the enamel. Do not use the salt more than once a week.

To Remove Stains from the Hands.

What is a safe thing to use on the hands to remove stains from housework or ink stains?—C. A. G.

A piece of lemon is very good for removing stains from the hands, and pumice stone is most effectual when the hands have become marked with ink.

Pomade for Reducing Thick Lips.

Melt an ounce of any of the cold creams, add one gram each of pulverized tannin and alkanet chips; let macerate for five hours, then strain through cheesecloth. Apply to the lips when necessary.

Notes and Comment

Of Interest to Women Readers

FOR LIFTING HOT PANS.

Simple Attachment Which Prevents Accidental Burning of the Hand.

There is no reason why the housewife should be continually burning her fingers lifting hot pans from the fire when she can readily provide herself with the handy attachment shown in the accompanying illustration, and avoid such accidents. It seems impossible to persuade women to use devices similar to this; they would rather use a cloth or their apron when removing utensils from the fire. This pan holder, nevertheless, should appear.



A Hairdressing Secret.

The woman with auburn hair once dark brown and the woman with yellow locks once drab met and complimented each other on the latest color of their coiffure. To the question, "Who did it?" each gave the name of the same hairdresser, but when they compared notes as to price it developed that the former brown haired beauty had had to pay \$15 more for the transformation than the yellow haired woman. Animated by an indignation that would not let her rest the highly taxed beauty seeker hurried to the hairdresser and demanded an explanation. The artist in hair was in no wise flustered.

"Yours is not an unusual case," he said affably. "We always charge from \$10 to \$25 more for dyeing dark hair light because if anything happens to it and it turns green or purple or any undesired shade a jury will always award a dark haired woman higher damages than a blonde. I don't know why all those sets of twelve wise men show that they do and hairdressers have to fasten one eye on possible jury verdicts before applying the dye."

What the Professor Says.

Woman is the "great peril" of the race. She is pulling man down to her level.

For Small Women.

No matter how small she is, a woman may always have a good figure.

If she has not one to begin with, she should economize in some other part of her wardrobe, and call in the services of a good corsetiere.

If she cannot be impressive, she can at least be neat and good to look at.

The only straight up and down lines in the development of your garments.

Whatever you do, allow nothing which cuts the figure horizontally.

The princess model, which is so much a part of the present mode, should be a cause of rejoicing among small women.

Do not wear shirtwaists and skirts of contrasting materials.

This cuts the figure in half, and lessens greatly the effect of height.

Dispense with belts, if possible, and if not, make them as narrow as possible, and always of the same material as the frock.

Coats may be almost any length but that most usual of all, the three-quarter. This is usually fatal.

Straight coat seams may be trimmed, but never the lower edge.

A trimming there would cut the figure in two.