

## VIRTUE OF MADSTONES.

SAID TO CURE BITES FROM MAD DOGS AND SNAKES.

It is Nothing Else Than Tabasheer, a Variety of Opal Found in the Joints of Certain Species of Bamboo—The Snakestone Does Its Work by Absorption.

So much discussion has been aroused by the alleged cures of bites of venomous insects, and even of mad dogs, which have recently been accomplished both in this city and in Chicago by means of madstones—stones which are asserted to have the power of absorbing poisons from wounds—that it may be timely to call attention to the fact that for centuries past stories have been current regarding the virtues, real or imaginary, of stones of this kind. While, of course, there is still room for skepticism concerning the reality of the cures attributed thereto, the immense amount of literature dealing with the subject should be sufficient to protect it from the ridicule which has been excited in connection therewith among a certain element of the scientific world.

The madstone, sometimes known as the snakestone, is first mentioned in the "Travels in India" of Jean Baptiste Tavernier, the great Oriental traveler of the seventeenth century, who describes it as being oval in shape, thick in the middle, becoming thin toward the edges. He writes as follows: "The Indians say that it grows on the heads of certain snakes. But I should rather believe that it is the priests of the idolaters who make them think so, and that this stone is a composition which is made of certain drugs. Whatever it may be, it has an excellent virtue in extracting all the poison when one has been bitten by a poisonous animal. If the part bitten is not punctured, it is not necessary to make an incision so that the blood may flow, and when the stone has been applied thereto it attracts and does not fall until it has extracted all the venom, which is drawn to it. In order to clean it, it is steeped in the milk of a cow, and after having been thus steeped for ten or twelve hours, the milk, which has absorbed all the venom, assumes the color of matter (pus). One day when I dined with the Archbishop of Goa he took me into his museum, where he had many curiosities. Among other things, he showed me one of these stones, and, in telling me of its properties, assured me that it was but three days since he had made a trial of it, after which he presented it to me. As he traversed a marsh on the island of Salsetto, upon which Goa is situated, on his way to a house in the country, one of his palanquin bearers, who was almost naked, was bitten by a serpent, and was at once cured by this stone. I have bought many of them. You employ two methods to ascertain if the snakestone is good and there is no fraud. The first is by placing the stone in the mouth. For then, if it is good, it attaches itself immediately to the palate. The other is to place it in a glassful of water, and immediately, if it is genuine, the water begins to boil."

Thenot, in his "Voyages," likewise describes the snakestones and discourses exhaustively on the subject. Indeed, there are few writers on Eastern India during the last two hundred years who have not devoted attention to these stones, all of them declaring that the belief in their efficacy is very general throughout Hindustan, not only among the natives, but also among the white population. The annals of the Roman Catholic missions likewise contain numerous accounts, duly authenticated, of cures effected by the snakestones, mentioning them as an "infallible remedy for the bites and stings of all sorts of venomous reptiles and animals, and likewise wounds made by poisoned arrows."

There is every reason to believe that the so-called snakestone or madstone is not exclusively an Indian product. According to Dr. George Frederick Kunz, who has made a special study of the subject, the so-called madstone is nothing else than tabasheer, well known to mineralogists. Tabasheer is a variety of opal that is to be found in the joints of certain species of bamboo in Hindustan, Burmah and South America. It is originally a juice, which, by evaporation, changes into a mucilaginous state, and then becomes a solid substance. It ranges from translucent to opaque in color, and upon fracture it breaks into regular pieces, like starch. Dr. Kunz declares that, with regard to Tavernier's account of the madstone clinging to the palate and causing water to boil when immersed, tabasheer has the property of strongly adhering to the tongue, and when put into water emits rapid streams of minute bubbles of air. It is almost identical with an organic product found by Arnold Hague in the geyers of the Yellowstone Park, and which has received the name of Colorado hydrophane. The later, like tabasheer, has an extraordinary capacity for the absorption of fluid, and this undoubtedly renders it efficacious for the purpose of absorbing poison from a wound, providing the latter is open enough. It may be added that tabasheer, formerly known as tabakir, was known and used in Persia by the principal physicians of the rulers of that empire as far back as in the tenth century of our era. Indeed, tabasheer plays a very important part in the medicine of the Middle Ages.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that tabasheer, its various properties and its history, constitutes the subject of a remarkable work published by Dr. Ernest Huth in Berlin, in 1886, and that much concerning the subject, as well as about the Colorado hydrophane and its relation to the madstones and snakestones of India and South America, will be found in the annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, especially among the papers contributed by Dr. George Frederick Kunz.—New York Tribune.

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## CARNEGIE STUDENTS.

Effects Upon Character of the Donation to Glasgow University.

Principal Story, in the course of his address to the students at Glasgow University graduation ceremony recently, said that they did not know as yet what permanent effect if any, the great Carnegie benefaction was, through its payment of fees, to have on the number of students attending the University. What effect it was to produce on their character was, he feared, less uncertain. In the winter session of 1901-1902 the fees paid by the students (male) themselves were £6510; those paid by the Carnegie trustees were £6239. In the session of 1902-03 those paid by students were £6359, and those paid by the Trust £7350—showing an increase over the previous year of about £1000, and also showing that the majority of the students had become beneficiaries of the Trust and had either been living hitherto in un-suspected neediness or were now reaping the harvest of a crop sown for such as they. The same downward grade from independence to indebtedness marked the summer session of last year. In it the fees from students were £1500 and from Trustees £2923. The elementary system seemed to grow in attraction for the ingenious youth, and it could not go on long and yet leave the honor of the students untarnished and their independence unshaken. Better met with courage and hardihood all the blows that circumstances could deal than lapse into the dependent contentment that knew not nor sought to know the bracing discipline of self-denial. The University existed to fulfil the purpose if its alumni did not understand that its function was not to inculcate knowledge only, but to instill high principle to mold stalwart character, to train its pupils not to struggle merely through the easiest option of a degree which should pay them for their trouble; but to love learning for itself, to seek for truth for its own sake, and to know their duty to God and man.

**Bird Charmer of the Tuilleries.**  
A crowd of Americans may be seen daily at the entertaining performance in the garden of the Tuilleries of the charmer des oiseaux. He has fed and fascinated more generations of sparrows than one can count, and has become quite a Paris institution. He takes up his position in one of the sidewalks facing the Arc du Carrouse, and as he whistles and twitters the birds fly to him from all parts of the garden. Then they range themselves in a semi-circle on the ground, squatting down, each one afraid to move until his name is called, for the charmer knows them all by name. As soon as the audience begins to collect the old man takes a few crumbs from his pocket and in each hand, and signalling to one or the other of the sparrows, or calling out a few names, they flutter up, and perching on his fingers help themselves to the bread. They then return to their proper places like so many school children, and others are allowed to come in turn. The other day a pathetic incident occurred. The old man, in stepping back, accidentally trod on one of the birds and killed it. This seemed to upset him, and as he held the tiny dead thing in his hand he was unable to go on for a few minutes, and shook his head sadly as he said, "Now that is going to bring me ill luck; such a thing has not happened for years;" but the pathetic side of the scene was considerably spoiled a few days later, on hearing that he had been locked up for using abusive language to a lady whose contributions failed to satisfy him.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

**Worship of the Hand-Made.**  
The ancestral mahogany bedstead that is now an honored ornament in every family had but its age and as sociates to recommend it, but of the bequeathed bedstead or the future it will be said not only that "it belonged to grandmother," but that "it was made by grandmother." The making of one's own furniture is now a recognized domestic industry, and in these days when one wants a new hall seat, instead of going to the furniture dealer's to get one, it is customary to retire to the workshop and create one. It is all but a part of the modern democratic craving for self-expression, and, whereas, but a limited number of people can pour forth their souls in sonnets, there are many who can express themselves in settees. Of course this new worship of the hand-made is regarded by many as but a passing fad, while these high-class workshops where kindly angels find employment for idle hands. But in reality there is a deeper significance behind this new interest, and those who have given themselves up to it confess to an enthusiasm in their work and a new zest to life in general that argues well for the future success of arts and crafts societies and the future banishment of that dreaded foe of society—ennui.—Chicago Tribune.



New York City.—Costumes of flecked chevrot and homespun are exceedingly smart, and have the added merit of being extremely serviceable. The very



A SERVICEABLE COSTUME.

Desirable model shown is of chevrot in gray flecked with white and is trimmed with stitched bands of white cloth edged with plain gray of a dark shade. All suiting materials are, however, equally appropriate. The jacket is made with fronts, back and under-arm gores and with a deep tunic that is seamed to the blouse and can be omitted whenever a short jacket is desired. The sleeves are full, with turn-over cuffs. The skirt is circular,

with a habit back, and has a circular flounce at the lower edge, which is cut in two portions, both jointings being made invisibly beneath the tucks. The quantity of material required for the medium size is, for jacket, two and a half yards forty-four inches wide or two and a quarter yards fifty-two inches wide; for skirt, seven yards forty-four inches wide or five and three-quarter yards fifty-two inches wide.



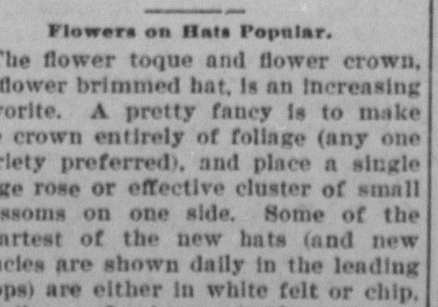
MISSES' BLOUSE JACKET.

Blouse jackets with tunics, or skirts, are among the smartest of the season's garments, and are exceedingly becoming to young girls. The very attractive May Manton one, shown in the large drawing, includes the stole collar and the new wide sleeves. The original is made of tan colored etamine and makes part of a costume, but the design suits the odd wrap equally well. The jacket consists of the front, back and under-arm gores of the blouse and the tunic. The back is plain, but the fronts are gathered at the belt and blouse slightly. The tunic is smoothly fitted, and is joined to the lower edge, the seam being concealed by the belt. The stole collar, which finishes the neck and fronts, is trimmed with applique and stitched with corticelli silk and is arranged over the edges. The sleeves are snug at the shoulder, but full at the wrists, where they are gathered into bands under the flaring cuffs. The quantity of material required for the medium size is five yards twenty-one inches wide, two and three-eighth yards forty-four inches wide, or two and one-eighth yards fifty-two inches wide.

**Flowers on Hats Popular.**  
The flower toque and flower crown, or flower brimmed hat, is an increasing favorite. A pretty fancy is to make the crown entirely of foliage (any one variety preferred), and place a single large rose or effective cluster of small blossoms on one side. Some of the smartest of the new hats (and new fancies are shown daily in the leading shops) are either in white felt or chip, Manila or Leghorn, simply trimmed with a wide braid of ecru or yellow lace straw, wound and twisted softly like a ribbon around the crown, with a loose spray or cluster of cherries,

plotting long white plumes on big, black hats, and the modish white plume, by the way, is coming in a warm, creamy tint ever so much more becoming than blue white.

**Woman's Shirt Waist.**  
Shirt waists are among the good things of which no woman ever has enough. This very stylish May Manton one is new and becoming to the generality of figures. The tucks, which are arranged to give it a pleated effect, are stitched only to yoke depth at the front, so forming a-becoming folds over the bust, while the back gives tapering lines to the figure. The original is made of dotted chambray, but all waist materials are equally suitable. The waist consists of the smoothly fitted lining, which can be used or omitted as preferred, the fronts and the back, and is shaped by means of shoulder and under-arm seams. The back is drawn down smoothly and snugly at the waist line while the front blouses are cut in one piece, and are full below the elbows and gathered into straight cuffs at the wrists. The quantity of material required for the medium size is four yards twenty-one inches wide, four yards



SHIRT WAIST.

twenty-seven inches wide, three and three-quarter yards thirty-two inches wide or two and one-quarter yards forty-four inches wide.

small pears or little apples, and their foliage thrust through a knot placed a little to one side. These fruits, as well as clusters of white thistles, are very effective.

**New Dress Fabrics.**  
Among the new dress fabrics is a silk gauze called vaporin, as sheer and filmy as chiffon, of silky lustre and beautifully adapted to dressy modes wherein much tucking and shirring is used. While speaking of dress fabrics, there are many new silk-and-woolen and silk-and-linen mixtures in all the new colors, and of excellent wearing qualities. Especially attractive are the very sheer mohairs, known as "mohair Swiss," that stands any amount of wear, dust or damp atmosphere.

**Shirred Sun-Bonnets.**  
Shirred sunbonnets are to be used for outing wear. They are simply one of the novelties of the season. For country wear and use at the seashore they are rather picturesque. They are made of shirred mull and fine thin lawn. Some models are seen made of flowered organdies. The shirring is done on feather bones. Broad, long ties are used on all models.

**Pretty Wash Collars.**  
Pretty new wash collars and cuffs are of heavy white linen, buttonhole stitched, in black and embroidered in two colors, say, pale green and pale lavender or pink and pale green. Others of the same style are made in fine linen lawn.

**An Expensive Dress Fad.**  
Parasol, hat and girdle to match are one of the expensive dress fads. It is a very effective fashion with white or linen colored costumes.

**The Modish White Plume.**  
Exclusive milliners are just now ex-

## MUST STAND TO SLEEP.

Prisoner in Ohio Jail Wide Awake When He Lies Down.

There is a prisoner in the county jail at Cleveland who can't lie down and enjoy a nap. He has to do all his sleeping while standing up.

This prisoner is Joe Butche, a man of about 30. He is in jail on a charge of burglary and larceny. The jail guards never find Butche on his cot at night. When bed time comes he stands in a corner and takes a comfortable snooze. If he is real sleepy and wishes to wake up in a few minutes he is wide awake.

"I suppose if you are sleeper than usual you stand up in the middle of the floor instead of leaning against something," said one of the guards.

"Oh, it's all the same to me," replied Butche. "I'm all right as long as I don't lie down." The jail officials don't know just how to treat Butche. They never offer him a chair because they're afraid he's too tired to sit down, and they don't like to have him stand up while they're talking to him, for fear he'll go to sleep.

"A born policeman!" say all the deputy sheriffs.—New York Journal.

## Odd Doings in South Africa.

A Dutch traveler, just returned from South Africa, tells some queer stories. He stayed for some time in a valley called Baboon's Kraal. There he saw immense armies of baboons which descended daily to the wells to drink, making hideous noises and paying no attention to the human beings camped near by. These baboons were harmful enemies to the settlers in the valley, for they had the habit of catching the goats when they were put to pasture and riding them until the poor beasts could run no farther. One day while in camp in Hottentot land he heard a rushing sound, as if rain were falling in torrents. Not far away it seemed to him as if a cloud had actually begun to fall to the earth. The cloud turned out to be locusts. The planters and cattle raisers soon appeared with their men and gathered them in bags. They smoked the insects to kill them and then dried them in the sun, after which they fed them to the dogs, chickens, pigs, goats and cattle. The traveler found that oxen and horses are especially fond of the locusts, and get fat and strong during the locust season, as do the natives, who also gorge themselves.

## Bride Was Cautious.

The marriage of Mrs. Annie Mary E. Zahn, 32 years old, and Thomas Wood Stein, 42 years old, by Justice Murphy recently in Jersey City, might not have occurred if Stein had not, just before the ceremony, made a will bequeathing to his wife several pieces of unimproved real estate in Flushing.

Mrs. Zahn said to the justice: "I love Mr. Stein, but I can not marry him unless he makes his will. Life is too uncertain."

Stein remarked that a "willful woman must have her way," but said he would make the will.

Mrs. Zahn declared she was not "willful, but cautious."

## A Son to Be Proud of.

Douglas MacArthur of Milwaukee son of Gen. Arthur MacArthur, who won distinction as commander in the Philippines, has just graduated at the head of his class at West Point.

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# PATENTS

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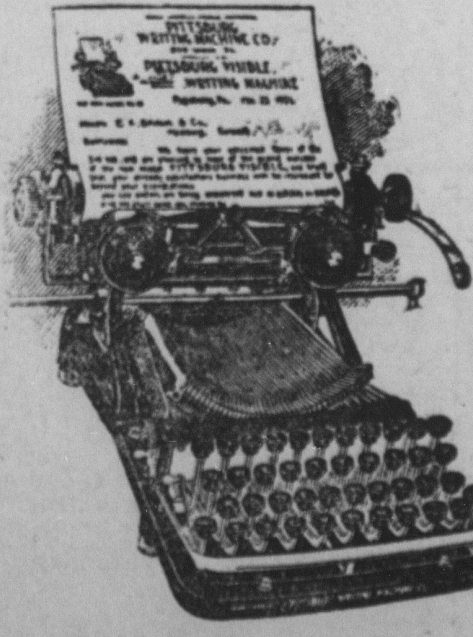
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