

A CHILD SNAKE-CHARMER.

A THREE-YEAR OLD BOY HANDLING SNAKES WITH IMPUNITY.

How He Takes Them Out of Their Cages—Facts About Rattlesnakes—Serpents that Commit Suicide—Snakes as Food.

A man who has devoted much of his life to the capture and study of rattlesnakes and other ophiidians, is now a cigar dealer in Philadelphia, where he entertains his friends and patrons with some of his experiences of snake hunting, and at the same time exhibits, free, many trophies of his skill.

Little Georgie Cills goes among them as fearlessly as though they were tame doves, and has a pet name for each snake. When his father told him the other day to hand out "Barnum," he boldly seized the largest of the snakes back of the head and pulled him over his shoulder, dragging him bodily to the door of the cage.

"There is not a snake in that lot," said Mr. Cills, "that cannot swallow a sparrow, and the big one, 'Barnum,' can get away with a big dock-rat very easily. You have no idea of the expansion the mouth of a snake is capable of undergoing. They are small, as you see, and their necks are very slim, but, by their constrictions and convulsions, they can force down a morsel that is twice their own bulk.

The little bird was introduced into the cage and instantly seized by the snake. His struggles were very brief, for in an instant a coil was thrown around him and he was crushed to death. Then Barnum maneuvered around the cage for a minute or so, still keeping the coil tightly pressed around the bird, forcing the wings close to its side, and was ready for his feast.

When a rattlesnake first comes into a show, he said, his fangs are pulled out and most showmen think that after that there can be no danger in handling him. That is a mistake. The fangs will grow again unless they are cut out at the roots, and I have known of cases where a rattlesnake bit and poisoned his handler less than three weeks after his fangs had been pulled.

"The rattles on a snake are not a sure indication of his age, as the naturalist tells us. They say he gets a rattle every year. Now, I have had snakes that grew three rattles in a year and some that did not have one in less than a year and a half.

"Did you ever know that rattlesnakes commit suicide? Well, they do. When we catch them we use a crocheted stick and aim to fit the crocheted stick back of the head. Sometimes we get it too far back, and that gives the snake a chance to bite himself.

"Are rattlesnakes good to eat? Well, their flesh tastes like sucking pig, and is perfectly transparent. I never made a practice of eating it, but I have tasted it fried and have no hesitation in saying that it was delicious."

The Largest Feet in the World.

A letter from Sandusky, Ohio, to the Cincinnati Enquirer says: Fannie Mills has the biggest feet in the world, so far as known, and they are still growing. Your correspondent came here on purpose to see the wonderful sight, which, under ordinary circumstances, he a very delicate proceeding.

Fannie Mills is twenty-two years old, and resides on the dairy farm of her father, George Mills, two miles from Sandusky. Your correspondent called at the Mills home at evening, and the head of the household was standing in the yard. His greeting was kindly and he entered into conversation on the subject of his daughter's big feet.

The feet look like two immense hams. The toes are irregular and the little toes are represented by two little knobs. There are no toenails, although the places where they should be are clearly defined. Your correspondent undertook the delicate task of measuring the feet. The right foot is one foot six inches in length, and the left one inch shorter. Over the instep of the right foot is twenty-one inches, and over the other one inch less. The big toe of the left foot is eleven inches in circumference. The right foot is longer than the left by an inch, but the latter is heavier and thicker.

The left shoe is 16 1/2 inches long, the right eighteen inches in length; the left is seven and one-half inches wide and the other eight inches. The right instep of the shoe measures 19 1/2 inches, and the left 17 1/2 inches. Fannie Mills weighs 109 pounds, and, although delicate-looking, says she has good health. It takes two calf hides to make her a pair of shoes, and all her vitality goes to sustain her massive limbs and feet.

Wifely Devotion in China.

Imagine fifteen of our maidens throwing themselves together into the river rather than accept the husbands proposed for them, as so many young girls did at Canton not long ago. But, if once the objection to marriage be overcome, such young ladies show as keen a desire to fulfill every duty of the state to which they have been called as they before did to avoid undertaking any duty at all.

One greening lasts two weeks; all others two or three days. Do not be imposed on by the humbug stuff offered. Ask your dealer for Fraser's, with label on. Saves your horse labor and you too. It received first medal at the Centennial and Paris Expositions. Sold everywhere.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

A QUEEN OF THE STAGE.

"Her Second Love," and the important musical comedy, "The Revue for the Benefit of Widows." (New York World.)

Several years ago the American public were aroused by the success upon the stage of a little lady who had been previously but little known. She was one of an innumerable number of aspirants for public favor and had no instrumental, aside from her own talents, to cause recognition.

The Arabs used lute in early times, but the Greeks and Romans were content with oil, and it is not mentioned as food by Galen, who wrote in the second century.

The white perch of the Ohio are noted for the musical sounds they make. The sound is much like that produced by a silk thread placed in a window where the wind blows across it.

Aaron Glover, a Sumner county (Ga.) negro, does not perspire like any other man. The left side of his face will trickle like a stream while the right is as dry as a bone. Then his body is just the reverse—the right side seems a continual stream, while the left is as dry as a piece of iron lying before a fire.

The most ancient system of weights in the kingdom of England was the moneyer's pound or the money-pound of the Anglo-Saxons, which was continued in use for some centuries after the Conquest, being then known as the "Tower pound," or sometimes the "Goldsmith's pound." It contained twelve ounces of 450 grains each, or 5,400 grains, and this weight of silver was a pound sterling.

Professor Huxley, in an address at the International Fisheries exhibition, pointed out that an acre of good fishing ground will yield more food in a week than an acre of the best land will in a year. Still more striking was his picture of the moving "mountain of cod," 120 to 130 feet in height, which for two months of every year moves westward and southward past the Norwegian coast. Every square mile of this colossal column of fish contains 120,000,000, consuming when on short rations, no fewer than 840,000,000 of herrings.

A German Custom.

There is a beautiful custom among the Germans of having chorals played from the church towers at regular hours of the day. When I first heard this music in Stuttgart, coming, as it appeared to me, from the heavens, I was puzzled to know its object and the source from whence it came. I gazed above and around me, but I failed to detect its origin. The beautiful melody, softened by distance, was floating in the air like music from rolian harps.

Somebody's child. Somebody's child is dying—dying with the flash of hope on his young face, and somebody's mother thinking of the time when that dear face will be hidden where no ray of hope can brighten it—because there was no cure for consumption. Reader, if the child be your neighbor's, take this comforting word to the mother's heart before it is too late. Tell her that consumption is curable; that men are living to-day whom the physicians pronounced incurable, because one lung had been almost destroyed by the disease.

An insurance agent named Tyler.

In running fell over the stile, St. Jacobs Oil gave relief. And the pain was so brief, He got up and said: "I should smile." A lame old lady at Keyser, Had no one to advise her, Till Doctor John Boyle Tried St. Jacobs Oil, Its action did simply surprise her.

On Thirty Days' Trial.

The Voltair Belt Co., Marshall, Mich., will send Dr. Dye's Celebrated Electro-Voltaic Belt and Electric Appliances on trial for thirty days to men (young or old) who are afflicted with nervous debility, lost vitality and kindred troubles, guaranteeing speedy and complete restoration of health and manly vigor. Address as above. N. B.—No risk is incurred, as thirty days' trial is allowed.

Home Items.

"All year our fault: If you remain sick when you can Get hop bits that never fail." —The weakest woman, smallest child, and sickest invalid can use hop bits with safety and great good. —Old men tottering around from Rheumatism, kidney trouble, or any weakness will be almost new by using hop bits. —My wife and daughter were made healthy by the use of hop bits, and I recommend them to my people.—Methodist Clergyman.

—The vigor of youth for the aged and infirm in hop bits! —"As the changes of life nothing equals Hop bits to allay all troubles incident Thereto." —"The best periodical for ladies to take monthly and from which they will receive the greatest benefit is hop bits. —Mothers with sickly, fretful, nursing children will cure the children and benefit themselves by taking hop bits daily. —Thousands die annually from some form of kidney disease that might have been prevented by a timely use of hop bits. —Indigestion, weak stomach, irregularities of the bowels cannot exist when hop bits are used.

—A timely use of hop bits will keep a whole family in robust health at a little cost. —To produce real genuine sleep and children whose all night, take a little hop bits on retiring. —That indigestion or stomach gas at night, preventing rest and sleep, will disappear by using hop bits. —Paralytic, nervous, tremulous old ladies are made perfectly quiet and sprightly by using hop bits.

—A noted but untitled woman. (From the Boston Globe.)

—The above is a good likeness of Mrs. Lydia B. Finkham, of Lynn, Mass., who, after all other human beings, may be truthfully called the "Dear Friend of Women," as some of her correspondents call her. She is zealously devoted to her work, which is the outcome of a life's duty, and is obliged to keep six lady assistants, to help her answer the large correspondence which daily pours in upon her, each bearing its special burden of suffering, or joy at release from it. Her Vegetable Compound is a medicine for good and not evil purposes. I have personally investigated it and am satisfied of the truth of this.

On account of its proven merits, it is recommended and prescribed by the best physicians in the country. One says: "It works like a charm and saves much pain. It will cure entirely the worst form of falling of the uterus, Leucorrhoea, irregular and painful Menstruation, all Ovarian Troubles, Inflammation and Ulceration, Floodings, all Displacements and the consequent spinal weakness, and is especially adapted to the Change of Life."

It permeates every portion of the system, and gives new life and vigor. It removes faintness, flatulency, restores all craving for stimulants, and relieves weakness of the stomach. It cures Headache, Dizziness, Nervous Prostration, General Debility, Displacement, Depression and Indigestion. That feeling of bearing down, causing pain, weight and backache, is always permanently cured by its use. It will at all times, and under all circumstances, act in harmony with the law that governs the female system.

It costs only \$1 per bottle or six for \$5, and is sold by druggists. Any advice required as to special cases, and the names of many who have been restored to perfect health by the use of the Vegetable Compound, can be obtained by addressing Mrs. F., with stamp for reply, at her home in Lynn, Mass.

For Kidney Complaint of either sex this compound is unsurpassed as an abundant testimonial show. "Mrs. Finkham's Liver Pills," says one writer, "are the best in the world for the cure of Constipation, Biliousness and Torpidity of the Liver. Her Pills further wonders in its special line and bids fair to equal the Compound in its popularity. All must respect her as an Angel of Mercy whose sole ambition is to do good to others." Philadelphia, Pa. Mrs. M. E. D.

Wells, Richardson & Co's IMPROVED BUTTER COLOR. A NEW DISCOVERY. For several years we have furnished the Dairymen of America with an excellent artificial color for butter; so meritorious that it met with great success everywhere, and has become the highest and only prize at both International Dairy Fairs.

It is not by patient and scientific chemical research we have improved in several points, and now offer this new color as the best in the world. It Will Not Color the Buttermilk. It Will Not Turn Rancid. It is the Strongest, Brightest and Cheapest Color Made. And, well prepared in oil, is so compounded that it is impossible for it to become rancid. BEWARE of all imitations, and of all cheap colors that are liable to become rancid and spoil the butter. If you cannot get the "Improved" write us to know where and how to get it without extra expense.

Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt.

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