

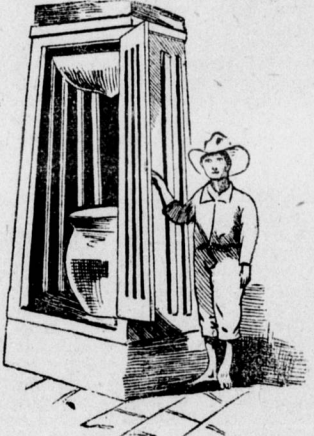
BEAUTIFUL DEADLY ORCHIDS

A Forest of Beautiful Flowers That No One Can Approach.

M. Serge Belaguine, a Russian explorer of Brazil, states in an interview recently published in The Gleaner that a few degrees below the equator he discovered a forest of flowers that prevented him from approaching them. With every reference to Mr. Belaguine, that forest seems to have been discovered before, says Collier's Weekly. Two years ago there appeared in a San Francisco paper an account provided by a bulb hunter returning from the same region, who declared that after noticing in a forest an odor, vague and sweet at first, but which increased as he advanced, ultimately he reached a clearing, and there, straight ahead, was a wilderness of orchids. Trees were loaded with them, underbrush was covered with them, they trailed on the ground, mounted in beckoning contortions, dangled from branches, fell in sheets, and elongated and expanded as far as the eye could reach. A breeze passed and they swayed with it, moving with a life of their own, dancing in the glare of the equatorial sun, and as they danced exhaling an odor that protected them more shepherly than a wall. In vain did that hunter endeavor to approach. There was a veil of perfumed chloroform through which he could see, but through which, try as he might, he could not pass. It held him back more effectually than bayonets, and it was torture to him to see those flowers and to feel that before he could reach them he must die, suffocated by the very splendors of which he was in search, poisoned by floral jewels such as no one perhaps had seen before. At the time the place was known as the village of demon flowers.

Porto Rican Filters.

Water is filtered in Porto Rico in a manner which affords an opening for American enterprise. In the courtyard of nearly every house stands one or two of the native filters. They are made in two main parts. The upper is a



A NATIVE FILTER.

ponderous porous stone, hollowed out to the shape of a wash basin. By a network of uprights it is supported directly over a stone receptacle on the ground. A gallon or two of water is poured into the upper, and falls drop by drop into the lower. The water is made clear as crystal, and, while the method is slow, it is sure. An inspection of the moss-covered lower half of the upper stone detracts a little from the esteem which the water wins at a first glance.

Egg Plants Hard to Grow.

Of all the vegetables which come into the summer market the most difficult to raise is the egg plant, and for this reason few truckers care to take the trouble with them. Few people in the city really know how an egg plant grows. The general impression is that it grows egg upward on a stock like the cauliflower and there are some who believe it grows in the ground like a turnip. In fact, it grows on a bush with a large leaf, and is never so large as a tomato-vine. The plants must be raised in a hotbed and set out in May and require more than ordinary care. A slight rain will sometimes cause all the eggs to rot and occasionally they rot without any rain. One egg in half a dozen fit for the market is a good average.

Italy's Poor.

Marvelous economy is practised by the poor of Italy in looking after the wants of the inner man. Coffee grounds from the wealthy man's kitchen are dried and resold to the poor. In a similar way oil is twice, and sometimes three times used, the drippings after each successive frying being gathered from the pan and sold to the poor.

A Mexican Law.

The laws of Mexico provide that a Mormon who wishes to take a second wife must present a certificate, signed by his first help-meet, to the effect that she is willing; and he must also have the express consent of the second wife and her parents.

Cheshire Cheese.

Cheshire cheese owes its excellence partly to geological causes, the red sandstone and boulder clay, with its immense salt deposits, of which the country is formed, producing an herbage peculiarly suited for cheese production.

Australian Aborigines.

The Australian aborigines are now ranked by ethnographers as fifth or sixth in the list of so called natural races, the Veddahs of Ceylon being the lowest in the scale of savage culture.

Glass in Manila.

The best houses in the city of Manila are of stone and are handsome residences. Glass is not used for the windows, which are glazed with translucent oyster shells.

MOST REMARKABLE LAKE.

A Strange Black Fluid That Bears No Resemblance to Water.

The most remarkable body of water in the world lies in the vicinity of the Colorado river, in Southern California. In this region of ugly volcanoes, desolate wastes and slimy swamps, the strangest phenomenon of all is what the naturalists call a "lake of ink." No other description fits so well. The strange, black fluid that forms the lake bears no resemblance to water.

The pool of ink is situated about half a mile from a volcano. It is about an acre in area. The surface is coated with gray ashes from the volcanoes to the thickness of about six inches, thus concealing its real nature.

Experiment has proved that the black fluid of the lake is not poisonous. It acts as a dye, and cotton goods soaked in it keep their color for months, even when exposed to the sun. They also acquire a stiffness similar to that produced by weak starch. The fluid has been analyzed, but its component parts have not been made known. As to the source of the supply of the lake, nothing definite has been ascertained. It is undoubtedly of volcanic origin, but nothing more definite is known.

This is a bad land that has never been traversed. Human beings have tried it, but they never return to tell of their experience of their discoveries.

Need of Covering During Sleep.

The reason that it is necessary to be well covered while sleeping is that when the body lies down it is the intention of nature that it should rest, and the heart especially should be relieved of its regular work temporarily. So that organ makes ten strokes a minute less than when the body is in an upright posture. This means 600 strokes in sixty minutes. Therefore, in the eight hours that a man usually spends in taking his night's rest, the heart is saved nearly five thousand strokes. As it pumps six ounces of blood with each stroke, it lifts 30,000 ounces less of blood in this night's session than it would during the day, when a man is usually in an upright position. Now, the body is dependent for its warmth on the vigor of the circulation, and as the blood flows so much more slowly through the veins when one is lying down, the warmth lost in the reduced circulation must be supplied by extra coverings.—Evening Wisconsin.

Largest Hotel in the World.

The sultan is said to have nearly completed the largest hotel in the world at Mecca. This establishment is to lodge 6,000 pilgrims at once, with, presumably, their camels and other beasts of burden, and promises to be one of the most picturesque places to stay at in the world, although, of course, infidel dogs are not allowed to approach it. Its vast size has drawn attention to monster residences. The largest dwelling house in existence is in Vienna, where there is an apartment-house with 1,500 rooms in it, occupied by more than 3,000 people. This building has thirty-two staircases, thirteen interior courts and 850 windows on the street.

The Manila Cab System.

The natives of Manila has a unique cab system. Not elaborate two and four wheels with coachmen and grooms in livery, high-stepping horses and high seats—these are superfluities, they consider. Only a single wheel, clumsy



A NATIVE CAB.

and shaky, with the other parts on the lines of an American wheel-barrow, constitutes the cab of Manila, on the top of which the passenger crouches. They are propelled by attendants who are strong, polite and speedy.

Accuracy of Range Finder.

So accurate is the range finder used on American ships that in a recent test with two shots the projectiles fell within 30 yards of each other at a distance of 12 miles. Both would have hit the hull of a ship farther than the unaided eye could reach.

Very Thick Skins.

Kongo negroes are remarkable for their thick skins. A case is mentioned of a black slashed with a razor in a scuffle. The hospital surgeon broke two needles in trying to put in the stitches and at last was driven to use a Bradawl.

Corean Hats.

The ordinary outdoor hat in Corea is a curious looking thing, having a brim a foot and a half wide, and being made of a kind of stiff gossamer, of silk or horsehair, dexterously worked in with finely split bamboos.

Elephant's Best Age.

In India elephants over twelve and up to forty-five years of age are deemed the best to purchase, and will generally work until they are eighty years old.

Thick House Walls.

The outside walls of many of the houses in Mexico are from three to six feet thick to withstand earthquake shocks.

Hindoo Trademen Make Good Use of Their Feet's Extremities.

The French ethnologist, Professor F. Regnault, has made special studies in the far east in regard to the ability of the Hindoos to make use of their feet as auxiliaries of their hands. This ability is particularly noticeable when one watches Hindoo tradesmen at their work. The carpenter employs his feet as a vise and as a gauge; the shoemaker holds the shoe between his feet, leaving both his hands free to work upon it; the Hindoo butcher holds a knife between the big and the second toe and cuts his meat by drawing it across the knife and pressing it down with both hands. The help of the feet is most valuable in weaving, and it is a wonderful thing to us to see a Hindoo artisan use both his hands and his feet in handling his loom. Regnault also observed a child climbing a tree and grasping the branches of the tree between the two first toes of either foot whenever a hold could thus be secured.

This collaboration of the feet with the hands, it would seem, is the result of several changes in the physical development which the Hindoo race has undergone in the course of time through outward agencies. Their hip joints are much freer and more limber than ours, and will permit them to squat on the ground and at the same time approach the feet so near to their hands that they can grasp with their feet the work in hand, and hold it with some expense of strength. The ankle joint is also limber, and works freely, and the big toe is more developed and can be moved by them at will as regards its bending and stretching, its separating from and approaching toward the second toe.

The normal foot of the Hindoo shows a large space between the big toe and the second; this, however, is due solely to their wearing sandals, which are held in place by a wooden peg placed between these two toes. The constant muscular exercise practiced in holding the sandals naturally tends to strengthen these toes, and the use of the feet being a general custom and tried even by children of the tenderest age, has gradually changed the Hindoo anatomy.

Funerals in Arabia.

"One of the strangest and most affecting sights in an Arab town," says a Tunis correspondent of London Sketch, "is that of the funerals, which may be met at any street corner. The corpse is merely wrapped in a mat of esparto grass and carried either on a bier or on men's shoulders. The mourners lounge along, some in front and some behind, crooning verses of the koran in melancholy tones, which haunt one for days afterward.

"This wailing is, however, nothing to that which goes on in the house of the deceased. When I was staying in the country near Tunis I heard it kept up during a whole night in a neighboring village, and I can conceive nothing more desperately depressing than these strains of lamentation wafted through the darkness by the breeze. My dog stood it even less well than I did and felt constrained to join in the doleful chorus until I was half-tempted to put a bullet through his head. Perhaps the strangest of all the funerals I saw was at Bizerta. It was that of a baby, which was being carried to its grave in an esparto basket."

Slaves in Finland.

A regular slave-market still exists in many country districts of Finland. Once a year such paupers, lunatics, and aged people of each parish as cannot support themselves are put up at public auction, and consigned to those families or farmers who will board them at the lowest price offered by the parish authorities. The helpless creatures are made to work as much as possible by their owners, who have the right to chastise them.

First Paper Mill.

The first paper mill was erected in 1690 at Roxboro, Pa., on a stream since called Paper Mill run, which empties into the Wissahickon, by William Rittinghuysen, who emigrated from Holland. He, in conjunction with William Bradford, was the proprietor in the manufacture of paper, made from linen rags, the product of flax grown in the vicinity, which had been manufactured into wearing apparel.

Fair for One as the Other.

Country roads in China are never bounded by fences, but are entirely undefined. While the farmer has the right to plough up any road passing through his land, drivers of vehicles have an equal right, and they exercise it, to traverse any portion of the country at will.

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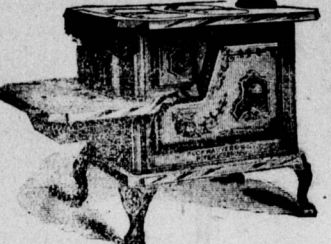
and you cure its consequences. These are some of the consequences of constipation: Biliousness, loss of appetite, pimples, sour stomach, depression, coated tongue, night-mare, palpitation, cold feet, debility, dizziness, weakness, backache, vomiting, jaundice, piles, pallor, stitch, irritability, nervousness, headache, torpid liver, heartburn, foul breath, sleeplessness, drowsiness, hot skin, cramps, throbbing head.

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