

New Things Strange & Curious

CLOCK MADE OF FLOWERS.

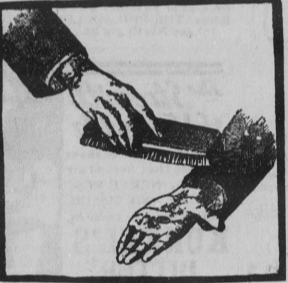


Probably the most elaborate floral piece in the world is the great flower clock in the public park in Detroit. It consists of a great green base, with a huge clock dial, perfect in every detail, some seven feet in diameter. The various dials and the hours are laid out accurately, including the hands. The floral clock is a permanent emblem throughout the summer months. The thousands of flowers which compose it are all living. They are planted early each spring in the great beds of earth. The clock is never taken apart for repairs until the late fall. It takes four expert gardeners the

greater part of a month to construct the great emblem. The flowers are selected from a great assortment, and more than 5,000 separate plants are required to completely cover the base. These are arranged with greatest care, so that the colors will be in striking contrast. The various parts of the face may be recognized for a considerable distance. Even when the flowers have been carefully planted the clock requires constant care. The plants must be trimmed almost daily to keep the face clear and distinct.

Brush The Coin Off.

Suppose it is your turn to entertain some young people at an evening party. Take a cent or a nickel from your pocket, place it on the outstretched palm of either hand, and challenge anyone to brush it away. Any kind of brush may be used for this purpose, but no brush that was ever made will prove effective, since the coin will re-



main in the palm of the hand in spite of all the efforts to remove it. Of course, you must stipulate that the front of the brush is only to be used, and that no attempt is to be made to push the coin away with the handle.

Greece holds the earthquake record, with 3,157 shocks in five years.

WHERE JUSTICE HAS GREAT WEIGHT.

If one would fully appreciate the weight of Justice, a trip should be made to Montezuma, N. Y. There resides in that town the champion heavyweight jurist in the country. He is Mr. Charles C. Jones, six feet one inch in height, with a record of 476 pounds.

Justice Jones has a waist measurement of 47 inches, he wears a 24-inch collar and his chest measures 64 inches. For a man of his great size he is particularly quick and active, and although he is the center of attraction when he travels abroad, he accepts the staring and comments with a very little sneezing, provided the car be not crowded. Once inside, however, his troubles begin, especially if there be but one empty seat. Mr. Jones declares that his experiences while traveling would fill a book, and make amusing reading, too.

He tells it as a huge joke that whenever he enters a car in which there is just space for one more to sit down, the people on each side of the space invariably rise if the jurist

makes as though he were going to sit down, and three seats are none too many for him, either. If he is seated when ladies enter he brings a battery of smiles upon himself by arising and with a courteous bow telling three or even four to "be seated"—no difficult task.

Justice Jones' home is a model of solidity; the furniture is the heaviest and most substantial, and the Justice has his own particular chair, a huge affair, more like a settee than a single chair, three persons being able to seat themselves comfortably therein. His Montezuma friends have secured counter-parts of this remarkable piece of furniture, which they place on their lawns and piazzas for his benefit in the summer time.

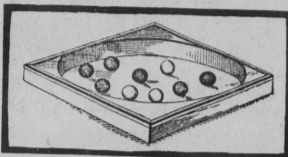
When he goes out for a stroll during August and the power of Old Sol creates a thirst, it is no unusual thing to see him standing outside a drug store drinking his friends' health in soda while the clerk obligingly carries out to him.

Needless to say, Justice Jones makes an impression when he appears in court. Fortunately his arguments are as powerful as his appearance, and his logic, coupled with his unflinching good nature, makes him a shining light among the dispensers of justice in Montezuma.



Loop Puzzle.

Here is an ingenious new puzzle which will give amusement not only for the young, but also for those numerous persons of mature years who like to solve problems. It consists of a board, on which is a plain, circular, unobstructed field. A circular wall encloses this field, and here and there in it are placed differently colored balls, which are free to move in any direction they please. The puzzle consists in arranging the balls according to groups, those of the same color being wholly apart from the others. It looks easy at first, but those who have tried to get the balls into the desired positions say that it is quite a difficult task.



Famous Wedding Feast.

One hundred guests were recently invited to a wedding feast in Poland, and here is the amount of food and drink which was consumed during the five days that the banquet lasted.

One ox, eight calves, eight sheep, six pigs, forty geese, one hundred and thirty ducks and as many chickens, thirty barrels of beer, ten casks of brandy, fifty bottles of liquor and several hundred bottles of wine.

With one exception all those present expressed themselves as highly satisfied with the entertainment. The one exception was the bridegroom, who was obliged to pay for the feast out of his wife's dowry.

KING MENELIK AND WIFE.

Menelik, ruler of Abyssinia, otherwise known as "Negus Negest" and "King of Kings," is portrayed in the accompanying picture, together with his august spouse, Taitu. The picture was taken recently and is generally considered the best likeness of the royal couple.

The two are represented as standing in the courtyard of their palace and awaiting the arrival of the Italian Ambassador, who is bringing a message from his monarch. Be-

neath their feet is spread a costly carpet, woven by natives, and over Menelik's head a court attendant holds the richly embroidered umbrella, which is the symbol of royalty.

The Queen is wearing a velvet mantle, which is also richly embroidered, and in other respects her costume is very similar to that of the King. It is remarkable, however, that she has no ornaments on her head or neck, since such ornaments are generally worn by oriental princesses and queens.



Queer Tribe In India.

In the Nellore district of the Madras presidency live the Yanaddis, a strange tribe, as may be seen from a report which has been issued by the authorities of the Madras Government Museum.

They live in forests, and that they are little removed from savagery is indicated by the absence of implemental or material, the animistic nature of their religion, the primitive hunting and fishing methods followed by many of the tribe, and the habit of eating the almost raw flesh of the game they kill, after slightly heating or scorching it.

They are fearless in catching cobras, which they draw out of their holes without any fear of their fangs, and it is supposed that they protect themselves against the effects of snake bites by swallowing the poison sacs of the snakes.

Especially singular is the manner in which they produce fire by friction. For this purpose they prepare two sticks, one short, the other long. In the former a square cavity is made, and it is held firmly in the ground while the long stick is twisted rapidly to and fro in the hole. Instead of charcoal powder they use rags, or even dried leaves, which they find little difficulty in lighting.

In Russia the penalty for leading a strike is the same as that for rebellion.

Submarine Photography.

Some excellent photographs have recently been taken of life at the bottom of the sea. As a rule the motion of the water at the sea's bottom is so strong that the camera, lamp and vessel to which the lamp is fastened must be held in position by pieces of lead or stones, and even after this is done it is generally necessary to lessen the force of the waves by pointing up on them. Instantaneous photographs of many fish have been taken in this manner, and they were so clear that in each case the scales could be counted with the aid of a magnifying glass.

In order to take such photographs successfully, however, great patience is necessary, since fish are shy and generally hesitate before they venture to approach the uncanny looking figure which has so boldly intruded upon them. In time, however, the patient photographer is rewarded, for they gradually come within easy distance of him and he can take pictures of them at his leisure.

ODD TAIL OF EGYPTIAN GREYHOUND.

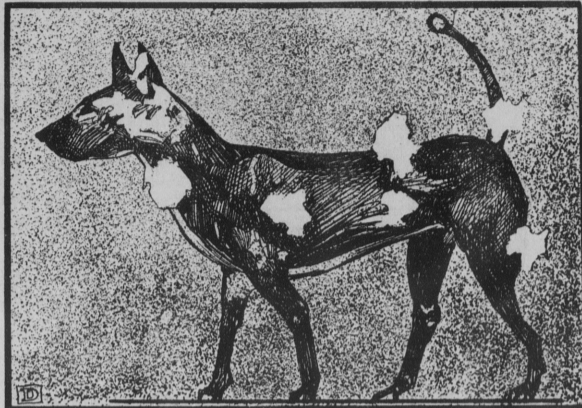
Striking and remarkable is the drawing of a greyhound that is one of the surprising finds of the last year in Egypt. The astonishing feature of this drawing is the curious knoblike ending of the tail, clearly defined and portrayed, which gives a vivid glimpse of the strange and hitherto unknown type of animal.

A noteworthy outcome of this find is the fact that the existence of the pure type of greyhound is pushed back to greater antiquity than was supposed. This illustration of the animal is considered to be the oldest in existence, and was executed some 5,000 years ago. It was found on an elab-

orate wall painting on one of the royal tombs near Thebes.

The tomb was that of one of the famous Theban kings, who reigned from 2800 to 2500 B. C. The monarch was a great sportsman and the walls of the spacious interior of his burial chamber were highly ornamented with hunting scenes. The king is depicted several times, along with his favorite greyhounds, on hunting expeditions.

Antelopes seem to have been the most hunted of all wild game at this early period. They are frequently shown being pursued by the greyhounds and hunters with long spears. It is, however, as a wonderful type of that dog and a marked variation of the usual type that is of especial interest to naturalists and fanciers.



Can't Break Vase.

To break a vase with a stick seems quite easy, yet it cannot be done if the vase is protected by a few pieces of loosely hanging twine. A man is trying to break a vase by striking it with a stout cane under such circumstances, but the pieces of twine that hang loosely between it and him render his efforts fruitless.

In order to perform this trick, a vase, a stick and a ball of twine are necessary. The



vase should be placed on the floor, and at a little distance from it should be hung pieces of twine, which should reach to the ground and should be fastened at the top, but not at the bottom.

A person then, standing with the pieces of twine between him and the vase, may take a stick and strike with all his force at the vase, yet he will not be able to touch it, for the reason that the free ends of the twine will curl around the stick the moment it comes in contact with them and will effectively impede its progress.

Chemist's Odd Will.

Dr. von Jirsusch, formerly a professor of chemistry at the University of Prague, died recently and, as he had no family, he left his entire fortune, amounting to about \$15,000, to the Prague Museum.

In his will he said that he made this bequest on the following condition: His furniture, his linen, his silver plate, his paintings, his books, his letters, the manuscripts of his unfinished works, all the instruments in his laboratory, and all the things which he used while making his toilet, such as his comb, brush, tooth brush, etc., were to be carefully packed up, and then placed in several strong iron boxes, which were to be hermetically sealed and were not to be opened for two hundred years.

The authorities of the Museum will comply with this condition, and in the year 21/2 all the property which belonged to Dr. von Jirsusch will be placed on exhibition, so that the scientists and the general public of the twenty-second century may obtain an accurate idea of the manner in which an Austrian chemist lived at the opening of the twentieth century.

If Dr. von Jirsusch had been nothing but a chemist he would probably never have made such a will. The reason why he made it was because he has for years spent much of his time in archeological researches.

Snow Stops Bullets.

Experiments which have been made near Christiania, in Norway, with the Krag-Jorgensen rifle, seem to show that during a winter campaign snow can be used most effectively by the soldiers.

The experiments showed that a bullet from this rifle could not penetrate loose snow more than a yard and a half. The same result was obtained, no matter from what distance the shot was fired.

Military experts, consequently, point out that snow offers more resistance to the penetration of such a bullet than any kind of wood, and almost as much as earth, and therefore it might be advisable, whenever it is possible, to use snow as a material for fortifications and other works during a campaign.

SHEPHERDS ON STILTS.

Most expert of stilt walkers in the world are those to be found in La Teste, in France. The rural postmen of this region, the shepherds and farmers go about on tall stilts with perfect ease.

The stilts worn by these people in their ordinary work frequently measure six feet or more in height. Years of constant practice has made everyone remarkably expert in managing these artificial legs, and such a thing as a fall is unknown.

A person who can add six feet to the length of his legs naturally has a great advantage over those who must walk with limbs of ordinary length. The French farmers mounted in this way are almost a match, in point of speed, for a horse, and a shepherd can outrun a dog in rounding up his sheep. The stilt walkers can even run at surprising speed over very rough country or through underbrush several feet in height.

A race was recently run near Bordeaux between three picked horses, three stilt walkers and three pedestrians. Only one of the horses finished. It arrived first, but only about 20 minutes ahead of the first stilt walker. The last of the stilt walkers completed the course 12 hours ahead of the first of the pedestrians.

The stilts used by the French peasants are entirely different from those sometimes used by children in the United States. The stilts which serve as toys in America, as a rule, reach up to the armpits, or at least to within reach of the hands. The French stilts do not reach even to the knee. The French stilts have, besides, a much broader rest for the foot.

The Frenchman never touches the stilts with his hands. They are strapped rigidly to his foot and leg, thus leaving both hands free to carry his long staff or any other burden. All the stilt walkers worthy of the name are able to mount their stilts without assistance. The children learn to walk on great stilts almost as soon as they can walk, and men over 80 years old still retain their curious artificial legs.

Nature's Alphabet.

Some fantastic grottoes are found in roots and limbs of trees in the State of Washington, a collection forming a complete alphabet.

It is the work of E. K. Lambert, a woodman of Elma, who three years ago found a perfect letter "A," which weighed over one hundred pounds. This gave him the idea of collecting a whole alphabet. He has found several hundred letters. They range in size from four to twelve inches.

They will probably be sent to the St. Louis Exposition as a part of the Washington forestry exhibit.

Spruce Mining Beetle.

Government experts have reported on one of the most destructive forest insects yet known. It is the spruce mining beetle, whose deadly borings in the bark and interior are killing off great areas of spruce trees in Maine, rendering worthless billions of feet of lumber, valued at millions of dollars.

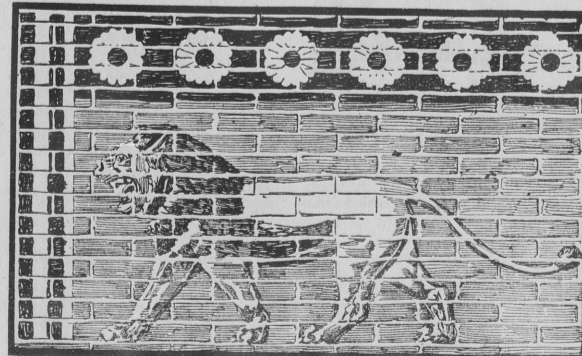
The ravages of this pest are so damaging that if not soon exterminated it is predicted that nearly all the virgin forests of spruce will be destroyed. Even at present it is estimated by lumbermen that from 50 to 70 per cent. of the matured timber now standing in large tracts has been rendered commercially valueless by the beetle's work.



It was found that the beetle attacked only the spruce, and only the larger trees. The first entrances are made in the bark of a healthy tree at a point from six to ten feet from the base. Here the beetle begins a series of borings and zigzag excavations, which weaken the vitality, and from these numerous wounds cause decay and final death of the tree.

Emperor William of Germany owns 260 farms.

THE LION OF BABYLON.



Of the many treasures discovered in the East by the German expedition, of which Dr. Robert Koldewey is the leader, not one is of more interest than the lion recently unearthed in the palace of King Nebuchadnezzar.

It is fashioned of many-colored glazed tiles, in the form of a mosaic, and is regarded as one of the choicest specimens of that kind of art that has ever been found. Lions of this type used to adorn the outer and inner walls of Eastern palaces, and were

also often placed in front of the outer doors, presumably because their grim aspect enabled them to perform admirably the duty of watchman. As Nebuchadnezzar reigned during the sixth century before Christ, this novel work of art must be at least 2,400 years old. It was in fragments when the German explorers found it, but all the pieces were recovered, and it was not difficult to place them in their original positions.