

STRANGE FORM OF DEATH.

Weird Experience of Dr. Sven Hedin in the Terrible Altitudes of Thibet.

In an interview describing his adventures during three years in the most Asia, Dr. Sven Hedin, the famous Swedish explorer, who has arrived in England to lecture, gave some remarkable details of a terrible journey in the high altitudes, says the London Mail.

"The hardest part of the expedition," he declared, "was my experiences in Thibet. During my second journey from Charklik to Ladakh, which lasted eight months, I lost nearly the whole of my caravan, owing to the enormous altitudes at which we were traveling. Some vague idea of this may be gathered when I tell you that even in the valleys we were higher than the summit of Mont Blanc. The mere act of breathing was most difficult, and on this one trip four of my companions died simply for this reason—they could not breathe.

"When we came to our evening camping-ground two of these devoted followers were found stark dead on their backs. The others died gradually from their feet upward, retaining their senses to the end, the brain being the last to be attacked. The experience was weird and awful, and certainly the worst I have ever had.

"Even to unbutton one's coat meant acute pain and tension to an overwrought heart which literally was at the point of breaking. The poor animals, too, suffered much. Out of 45 horses I lost 44, and 30 out of 39 camels left their bones in these terrible altitudes."

Dr. Sven Hedin says he considers it impossible for any European to enter Lhasa. He made two attempts and got within one day's march of the mysterious city, but on each occasion was captured by an armed force and forbidden, on pain of death, to advance any further.

On the site of the ancient Lake of Lob Nor the explorer found ruined temples and houses with high towers. There were remains of wide streets, and ruins which showed that some of the temples must have been very fine structures. Among the ruins were a number of manuscripts written in ordinary Chinese 1,600 years old.

FEW WILD PIGEONS LEFT.

Where a Few Years Ago the Heavens Were Black with Them, Not One Is to Be Seen.

"Wild pigeons have been slaughtered just for the fun of slaughtering them until there are few left," said a man connected with the Smithsonian institution, reports the New York World. "Wild pigeons are fast becoming extinct, along with hundreds of other American birds and animals, and Americans are responsible for it. Out west a few years ago men would go to a pigeon roost at night and cut the trees down, just to see how many of the birds they could kill. The Ohio valley and other regions were full of them, and in many western states I have seen the heavens black with these birds morning and evening. Unless stringent laws are adopted and enforced animal after animal and bird after bird will be exterminated. The Creator put them here for some purpose, and yet some people seem to think that the best thing to be done is to wipe them off the face of the earth. Many of the most valuable species of animals at present inhabiting the world will inevitably be rendered absolutely extinct within a few years unless something is done.

"Fashion, to a great extent, is responsible, but the whole truth is that man, and especially the American, is by nature the most destructive creature in all creation. The marked and rapid changes being wrought in the fauna of the world are largely attributable to his insatiable appetite for killing. He just seems to want to be eternally and everlastingly slaughtering something—would he soon kill a humming bird as an elephant, a pet rabbit as a snake. It makes no difference to him, just so he stops the breath of some living thing. I regard it as pure, unadulterated 'cussedness,' and would suggest the Delaware whipping post as a cure for it. Men who have devoted their lives to such work as we are engaged in here at this institution can feel and see the end havoc which is going on more keenly than those who only give the matter an occasional thought."

All Mixed Up.

"Is it correct to say that Gen. Blazes received a reception?" "Er—no—well it doesn't sound just right, but—"

"Well, the citizens gave him one, didn't they?" "Yes."

"And he received it, didn't he?" "Well, he didn't refuse it, anyhow; but, see here! He was received by the citizens, wasn't he?" "Yes."

"How could he receive and be received at the same time?" "Yes; but when they gave him the reception he received them all and shook hands with them, didn't he?" "To be sure, and they received him with a reception at which he received them and accepted their congratulations with a cordial reception—oh, hang this language, anyhow!"—Washington Times.

Between Friends.

Miss Elsie: "I'll let you into a secret, if you'll promise not to tell it." Miss Young: "All right." "I'm engaged."

"Oh, judge! Suppose I do tell it, no one will believe it."—Chicago Daily News.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

Insinuation—Madge—"She has a lovely complexion." Marjorie—"No wonder; that girl studied chemistry."—Smart Set.

"Yes, I believe that even inanimate objects have intelligence of a sort." "For instance?" "Well, for instance, the policeman at the street crossing."—Baltimore News.

"How is this—you have three invitations to dinner to-morrow, and still you find fault?" "Why shouldn't I? They are all for the same hour!"—Journal Amusant.

One or the Other—"I don't know whether she has shaken him or promised to marry him." "Why?" "He has stopped buying extravagant presents for her."—Catholic Standard.

His Future—"That inventor has a brilliant future." "He has. I never knew a man with so long a list of great things he is going to do. He is one of the few people whose futures make them famous."—Washington Star.

The Safe Way—Clerk (in village drug store)—"Do you live here?" Customer—"Sure." Clerk—"Then you'll have to wait till the boss comes back; I ain't allowed to put up prescriptions except for strangers."—Detroit Free Press.

Love in Spectacles—"I suppose now that I shall have to ask your father for his consent." She—"No, Harry. After the first time you called on said I might have you if I wanted you. Pa and I have understood it for a long time."—Boston Transcript.

Voice of Experience—"You can't judge by appearances, paw," said Farmer Sorghum's eldest daughter. "Beneath the roughest exterior may nestle the heart of gold." The old man looked thoughtful. "That sounds nice," he said, "but it seems to me it's just the opposite with a gold brick."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

CHARMS CARRIED BY ROGUES.

Odd Articles Kept in Their Pockets to Save Them From Arrest and Punishment.

A Vienna professor of criminal law, Dr. Hans Gross, has published a valuable book, "The Research of the Real Facts in Criminal Offenses," one of the most interesting chapters in which is devoted to the part superstition plays in the lives of criminals and in the course of justice, says London Tit-Bits.

Dr. Gross proves his assertions by facts. He saw a maid almost sentenced to several years' imprisonment because her account of the way in which she came to possess a valuable opal ring that she tried to sell was not believed. She said that a lady whom she did not know and had never seen before in her life gave her the ring in the street. One of her judges changed to remember that opals were considered unlucky by women, and the affair was well looked into, with the result that the girl's story was proved true.

The woman had inherited the ring and was told she could get rid of the ill-luck it would bring if she gave it to the first person she met on going out.

A very frequent proceeding in Austria is for those who have been robbed to accuse innocent persons on the unsubstantiated testimony of fortune-tellers, who claim to be able to tell from the cards where to seek a thief.

Crimes are still committed because the old magicians' books are believed in. The idea that to drink warm human blood, obtained by a crime, cures epilepsy is still very general. Other fits, according to superstition, are cured by chewing wood from an old coffin.

Not quite two years ago two German soldiers found an old book which gave the magic form by which it was asserted that a man's head could be cut off and put on again without hurting him. The promise was made that a man thus treated could find treasures wherever he sought them. One of the soldiers actually had his head cut off.

The things which criminals carry on their persons are often a clew to their pursuits and character. Thus poachers carry the roots of a fern which resemble small hands and are called the hands of St. John.

The mandragora root is supposed to help one to open locks, besides being an aid to lovers and gamblers. The latter, who hope to use false cards without being detected, carry the dried heart of a bat in their waistcoat pockets. There are innumerable superstitions according to which a man may swear a false oath and not be the worse for it.

Some criminals put the left hand in their pockets and make a fist, or they twist a button off their trousers, or spit three times, or put small stones under their tongue. Some always have the leaves of mistletoe in their shoes to be prepared for a false oath at any time. But the most frequent way is called "conducting it through the body." While the right hand is raised the left is held down, and the fingers of the left are held in the same position as those of the right hand. In this way the oath "passes through" and does not signify.

A New Occupation. An enterprising draper in New York employs an assistant who is particularly expert in arranging cravats in the most fashionable shapes. The assistant attends weddings, and helps the bridegroom and best man to properly adjust their ties for so suspicious an occasion. —New York Sun.

The Banner Corn State. Missouri is now credited with the greatest corn yield, estimated last year at 375,000,000 bushels. Iowa is a close second, with 300,000,000 bushels, and Kansas and Nebraska follow. —Success.

THE GRIZZLY'S HOME LIFE.

Males of the Species Will Have Nothing of the Cubs—Delight in Travel and Change.

There is a deal of discussion among hunters after big game in the mountains concerning the sort of fathers and husbands grizzly bears make. The consensus of opinion seems to be that bruisers are unfaithful, heartless spouses and a contemptible father, says Outing. He will help madam bruiser seek a cave or an opening in the rocks or mountain side, where their cubs may be born, and he will carry a dainty morsel, such as a sheep, a calf or part of a cow's carcass, there for his mate's food. However, a few days after the cubs are born in the family circle he will leave the home, probably never having any further acquaintance with his spouse and her offspring. Thereafter madam bruiser must make her own way and provide for her cubs. Unlike the black bear, which is a jolly, fun-loving father that rolls and frolics with his baby children, the male grizzly will have nothing to do with the cubs. Madam grizzly and her children are companions for two summers and they hibernated rolled together in a ball for fur for about 100 days during the coldest days of winter. The mother bear and her young travel far and wide, moving principally at night.

Kit Carson said that the wide range of a family of healthy grizzlies in a summer season is almost incalculable. He had reason to know that once left their hibernating cave among the southern spurs of the Rocky mountains in New Mexico one spring in the '40's, crossed Colorado and Wyoming, were seen in the mountains in Montana and were back in New Mexico again for another winter before the following October.

The maternal instinct, however, is as strong in the grizzly as in any other animal. There are numerous instances of mother bears giving up their lives to save their cubs from danger. Only recently the writer heard a hunter tell how a grizzly cub got in one of his steel bear traps and how the mother came and clawed and bit and scratched at the viselike jaws of the trap in a vain hope of freeing her young. When daylight came and the hunter, rifle in hand, approached the mother grizzly in her rage and her love for her cub charged straight at the hunter and was shot down.

The cuteness—sagacity, some observers call it—of grizzly bears is shown in hundreds of different ways. The bear lore that is always retailed about a camp fire of hunters and trappers in the mountains is filled with stories and observations of this sense, which seems to belong to grizzly bears alone among the great family of bruisers. All hunters have had experiences in which they have been led many miles from camp, across mountains, over wide areas of boulders and through rocky canyons by some smart old grizzly that seemed to have a human mind in teasing the hunter along and at the same time keeping out of range of rifle when there was an opportunity for the pursuer to shoot. The bear that knows it is hunted and sees a chance to escape will do so every time. It will climb hastily into spots most inaccessible to man and when it has surveyed the field from behind a titanic boulder or in a dense chapparal where the hunter cannot shoot it will decide upon a course of escape. If there is a she bear in the band and her cubs are along she will drive the little fellows on ahead a few feet and defend them in the rear. When bruiser knows there is a chance for a bullet from a hunter's gun to come that way he will hasten as fast as possible, not stopping to rest until some protection is afforded from bullets by rocks or timber. Many she bears in the anxiety to save their cubs have been seen to pick them up in their fore paws and trudge clumsily along.

Uninsured Treasures.

It is startling to think that, while almost any tradesman's shop that might be burned down is covered by insurance, the British museum, if it were burned down to-morrow, would not cost the insurance companies one half-penny. Neither would the houses of parliament, but not one single sovereign of this vast sum is covered by insurance. Three thousand pounds a year is spent on a force of police and firemen to protect the houses of parliament day and night, and the British museum pays the rent of a fireman's house in Coram street, but that is the full cost of the precautions against fire in these places. The British museum, being that prevention is better than cure, has no artificial light on its innermost recesses. —St. James' Gazette.

American Inventions in Syria.

Last summer, for the first time, the whirl of reaping machines was heard in the grain fields of the ancient land of Syria. The machines came from Chicago, and when a little later, a steam thrashing machine, made in Indiana, was set to work in Cole-Syria, there was some excitement among the native farmers. Before the reapers appeared on the plain of Esdracoon American windmills had been introduced, and later in the year a flour mill, with machinery and an oil motor engine from Indianapolis, began grinding wheat in Lebanon. So the year 1902 is a notable one in the advance of practical science over the old Bible lands. —Youth's Companion.

And the Others Are.

People who have occasion to be stuck up hardly ever are. —Washington (11) Democrat.

FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

Odd Bits of Domestic Lore for the Scrapbook of the Young Housewife.

A pretty effect for a sofa pillow top is an arrangement of ribbon woven in and out, as the paper mats for kindergarten work are done. A sofa pillow of this type is especially appropriate for a den where strong decorative effects can be used. Orange and black are a good combination for such a cushion, and so, too, are green and pink and royal blue and white, says the Brooklyn Eagle.

A small cushion that comes in handy to tuck in at one's back when sitting in an armchair is made of a loosely stuffed center of silk. This is about eight inches in diameter, and not at all thick. Around this a puffing of silk is placed. A circular piece of scalloped linen, either white or ecru, serves as a top. The white tops are decorated with yellow buttercups, if the silk cover of the pillow be yellow, or with violets, if green or lavender silk is used for the cushion top. The scallops are far apart and deep, and they are fastened down over the puffing so as to allow the fluting to flare out between. The ecru tops are embroidered in gold thread and oriental silk. For an "emergency lunch" a tempting dish, is one that is easily prepared after these directions: Slice a loaf of bread, cutting off the crusts. Toast these slices and butter them. Prepare canned tomatoes by stewing them with a little sugar, rice, butter and seasoning, also a little finely chopped onion. Pour this mixture over the layers of toast as they lie upon a platter. This makes an excellent relish and is a good substitute for meat.

A practical and at the same time decorative arrangement for protecting the wall at the back of the divan is a strip of oriental material, about eight inches wide, fastened to the wall just above the top of the divan. In addition to serving as a protection for the wall, the strip serves as a photograph frame for pictures of people, landscapes and interesting views of buildings can be slipped in at the top of the strip.

The newest design for sets of small plates is that of Gibson heads done in black lines, suggesting etchings. In handling these designs are totally different from any which have been put upon china heretofore.

Wild fruits, such as beach plums, wild grapes and wild plums make delicious preserves, the aromatic flavor imparting a special touch of piquancy. An expert housewife always puts up at her summer residence on Long Island a quantity of beach plum preserves, and from these many delicious desserts are evolved during the winter months. Beach plums have a puckery quality, but this is nullified by boiling them first in water to which has been added a pinch of soda. After this process boil them again in sirup.

An effective window box seen recently was covered with oil cloth in blue and white tile pattern. Blue and white morning glory seeds were sown in this box, producing a beautiful supply of blossoms. Indoor green morning glories are more delicate than the garden grown ones, and they made an unusually pretty window box filling.

TREATMENT FOR BURNS.

A Simple Application Which Has Been Found to Be Very Efficacious.

Thirty years ago a Boston physician discovered a simple cure for burns. It found its way into the Army and Navy Journal. An army surgeon called a number of officers and sergeants to the hospital office and demonstrated this cure. I being present, writes a contributor to Medical Talk.

He held his naked arm over a lighted candle and burned it until we were all thinking he wanted us to taste cooked human flesh. Then he sent for a bandage and about one-fourth pound of bicarbonate of soda (baking soda), had it made into a paste with cold water, spread on the bandage the thickness of the tine of a fork and bound tightly over the wound. In thirty minutes he pronounced every particle of pain gone. In a few days the wound was healed and finally left not the slightest scar, without ever having changed the bandage.

I burned my breast severely a few years after, by falling into a camp fire, made the application a full week after, when the wound had become horribly inflamed and ulcerated by inattention, as we had no remedies with us whatever. I applied the baking soda from a pound package bought in a western ranch and presumably not of the best quality. For half an hour I suffered severe pain, then it ceased and I slept all night. Taking the plaster off, leaving the place as clean as it could be. In a few days it was entirely healed and there is no scar, only a slight redness of the skin.

Rice and Chicken Croquettes.

One cup of cold chicken, chopped fine and seasoned with salt and pepper, one cup of cold boiled rice. Heat both together in a double boiler, adding a little milk, if the mixture seems dry. When hot stir in one egg beaten light, and when it is thoroughly mixed remove from the fire. When the mixture is cold, form into croquettes, roll in egg, then in fine bread or cracker crumbs, and again in egg, and fry in hot lard. —Good Housekeeping.

Goose Dressing.

Take four apples, peeled and cored, two small onions, a pinch of sage and one of sweet marjoram. Boil them in sufficient water to cover, and when done rub through a sieve. Then add enough neatly boiled potato to cause the dressing to be dry. Add pepper and salt, and stuff the goose. —Detroit Free Press.

FREAKS OF FORTUNE.

Curious Instances of Suddenly Acquired Fame and Wealth in Russia, Italy and Germany.

Fortune's wheel has lately played a few interesting pranks in the destiny of mere men in Russia and Italy which remind one of the wonders of Aladdin's lamp, says the London Telegraph. Thus a poor fellow named Shalyapin, who a few years ago labored long and hard for his daily bread in various Russian cities, standing on the lowest rung of the ladder, is now the prince of Russian singers, and, what is more, a splendid actor over and above. Whenever he appears before the footlights the theater is crowded to the ceiling, and the manager has to "turn money away." In Italy a sudden revolution of the fateful wheel has produced a similar result, and Sig. Giorgioni, who was only a fishmonger some eight months ago, is a theatrical star of the very first magnitude to-day. He was noted until last year for the loud-silvery voice with which he was wont to cry out and praise his funny wares in the market place, drawing a considerable crowd of buyers away from his competitors. One day a lover of music chancing to pass that way heard the voice, and declared that there was money and music in it. Giorgioni thereupon changed the fish market for a music school, and has now made his first appearance before the public of Naples with a triumph which breaks all records. The walls of the San Carlo theater quaked with the thunder of the applause which greeted the ex-fishmonger, and musical critics are squandering upon his performance the superlatives of all the adjectives of praise in their vocabulary. He is credibly asserted to be the prince of Italian tenors, and a likely candidate for the championship of the world.

Prizes in life's lottery are restricted to no one profession or calling. They may be fewer in this career and more numerous in that, but they are the monopoly of none. This universality of lucky chance was curiously exemplified a short time ago here in the German capital by a lady whose occupation—she was correspondent in a dressmaking establishment—saw her out from the everyday world and left her little opportunity of bettering her position. But the psychological moment arrived when an importer out in Montevideo wrote to a Berlin firm saying that he refused to accept a large consignment of goods sent him, and gave various grounds for his attitude. The lady correspondent replied to his letter with great ingenuity and equal energy, and the correspondence, carried on for a considerable time with remarkably great aplomb, ended in the triumph of the lady.

The goods were finally accepted and paid for. At present the importer in question, who is traveling on business, paid a visit to Berlin, called on the firm, and spoke of the dispute in which he had been worsted. The wealthy erole was not a little astonished to learn that all the arguments had been formulated and the letters written by a young lady. He asked to see her, fell in love with her on the spot, proposed, and was accepted, then and there, and thus his business trip has developed into a delightful wedding tour. The dressmaking firm is now besieged with applications for a post which offers such attractive possibilities.

THEN THE BANDITS LISTENED.

The Credentials of a Beautiful Young Woman Who Had an Ambition to Lecture.

A party of barons met a beautiful young woman in a lonely place near the Bulgarian frontier, relates the Brooklyn Eagle. "Please sir," she appealed to the chief, "I have come all the way from America to get you to carry me off into the mountains."

"What are your recommendations, miss?" the robber inquired. "I have some beautiful diamonds. See?" She displayed her goodly stock of gems.

"Baubles, child; mere baubles. Sorry, miss; but they're hardly worth the trouble. Come on, boys!"

"But please, Mr. Bandit," she implored, "I have wealthy people who would pay a heavy ransom for me."

"Now! There's nothing in that—a few paltry thousand, more or less. Come on, fellows!"

"Oh, please, dear, good Mr. Bandit, do take me! I have an ambition to lecture, and—"

"Huh?" He stopped. "Now, you're talkin' gal."

"And a splendid press agent," she continued. "What? Say! You're it! How dowe share the gate money?"

And as they happily journeyed monntainward the details were satisfactorily arranged.

Weighting a Perfume.

An Italian physicist, Signor Salvioni, has devised a microbalance of such extreme delicacy that it clearly demonstrates the loss of weight of musk by volatilization. Thus the invisible perfume floating off in the air is indirectly weighed. The essential part of the apparatus is a very thin thread of glass, fixed at one end and extended horizontally. The microscopic objects to be weighed are placed upon the glass thread near its free end, and the amount of flexure produced is observed with a microscope magnifying 100 diameters. A more weighing one-thousandth of a milligram perceptibly bends the thread. —Science Siftings.

Keep It to Yourself.

It is bad enough to know you are a fool, but it is far worse to let others know it. —Chicago Daily News.

SOMETHING ABOUT MALARIA.

The Mosaic Theory of Recent Popularity Is Not Accepted in Its Entirety.

According to a recent editorial in the Medical Record, malaria has entirely a different origin than heretofore supposed. This writer claims that malaria is an infectious disease to which only the mosquito and man are liable. Which had malaria first, the man or the mosquito, he does not pretend to say. It makes little difference which had it first, as one is bound to infect the other, says Medical Talk.

Let us suppose that the man first had malaria. The mosquito bites the man and becomes infected with malaria. Then the mosquito has malaria and gives it to the next man he bites. In so doing this disease is passed backwards and forwards from mosquito to man and from man to mosquito.

Malaria is not bred in bogs and swamps as formerly supposed. The only reason why people living near low, wet places, are more liable to have malaria than those living upon the hillsides is because the mosquitoes live in the damp places. The mosquito being there, malaria is there. Wherever the mosquito goes it carries the malaria with it. Not all mosquitoes, of course, but just such mosquitoes as happen to be infected.

Therefore, people do not get malaria directly from dampness or putrefying vegetable matter or undrained swamps. They get it from mosquitoes. The writer says that if people do not go out evenings to expose themselves to the bite of mosquitoes, or when they do go out they protect themselves by mosquito screens, they will not have malaria, however much they may expose themselves to the dampness of malarial localities.

The mosquitoes themselves are bred in these unwholesome places, but malaria is not bred here. The mosquitoes have to get malaria somewhere else. Mosquitoes do not catch malaria from each other. They can catch it only from man. One man may give many mosquitoes malaria and each one of these mosquitoes go ground and give many men malaria, and they keep passing it backwards and forwards. Instead of being an endemic or miasmatic disease it is an infectious disease capable of infecting mosquito and man.

BALL PLAYERS' SALARIES.

Reminiscences of Deals in Which Old-Time Stars Figured Somewhat Expressively.

With the reported princely salaries to be drawn by some of the baseball players, whose services are in demand by both the National and American leagues, the older fans are reminded of the deals of years gone by when King Kelly, John Carson and other players whose names are now but memories were the central figures in the baseball world. It was in 1885 that the baseball world was astonished by the purchase of M. K. Kelly from the Chicago club by the Boston management, the sum of \$100,000 being paid the former club for "The King's" release, says the Albany Argus.

This deal, gigantic as it was for one player, was beaten two years later, when Bob Caruthers was sold by Chris Von der Ahe, of the St. Louis Browns, to the Brooklyn club, also of the American association, for the magnificent sum of \$14,205. This record for the sale of players is still unique in baseball lore. Caruthers was then attached to Comiskey's twirling staff, and had been the mainstay of the Browns for the three seasons when they won the pennant in the association. Then the Brooklyn club determined to get into the race, and offered great sums to President Von der Ahe for some of his stars, among them Caruthers.

When the deal was finished the sum of \$8,220 in cash was paid for the sale of the release of the pitcher, and a bonus of \$1,500 was paid to him for signing with the eastern team, as well as a salary of \$4,000 for the season being given to him. In addition to this it cost Brooklyn \$500 additional salary to carry out the deal, making a total of \$14,205 expended in securing this star.

The Boston-Kelly deal, which created a great stir at the time, and is remembered by every old-time fan in the country as one of the great events and landmarks of the game, cost Boston the sum of \$10,000 for the release of the player. Then a salary of \$4,000 was guaranteed him for the season, making a total of \$14,000. While the Brooklyn club was strengthening, with the purpose of so weakening the Browns that the pennant would go east the following year, they persuaded Von der Ahe to part with a couple more of his stars for goodly sums, Dave Foutz being sold for \$5,500 and Bushong going for \$500 less.

Greatness of Alaska.

The remarkable resources of Alaska give so much promise of rapid development that popular interest in our far northern territory is continually growing. In order to assist in forming a clear conception of the vast extent of Alaska, Mr. A. H. Brooks, of the United States geological survey, has prepared a map in which Alaska is represented superposed upon the United States, with its northern edge lying upon Lake Superior, and along the border between Minnesota and Canada. In this position Alaska covers, in whole or in part, 23 states and territories. The area of Alaska is almost one-fifth as much as that of all the rest of the United States. —Youth's Companion.