

"ROOT-FOOTED" ANIMALS.

Interesting Life Histories of Some Wonderful Animals of Microscopic Size.

Many microscopic animals you can find in your own back yard. Look, and you will find a scientific friend to help you catch them—in small pools, ditches and various damp places.

But, because you can find microscopic animals even in large numbers in some stagnant water you must not believe that "all water is full of little animals," as we sometimes hear very incorrectly stated by people who do not know. The scientific man takes a drop of water in which some plants have decayed and shows, by the aid of a powerful microscope, many interesting swimming and wriggling forms.

Among the most wonderful of these tiny animals in water is the amoeba, that looks when at rest like a tiny blob of jelly.

These extensions of the little amoeba and of other members of the family have somewhat the appearance of the tiny roots of plants; hence the little animals are called "root-footed."

The little amoeba can eat a plant much larger than itself, in a method much similar to that of a starfish eating an oyster—by merely surrounding it.

Scientists claim that the amoeba never dies—except, of course, when destroyed by accident or eaten by some larger animal.

But the amoeba is only one of a large number of these strange "root-footed" animals.

Many of them live in fresh water, or even in damp places on land. In fact they occur almost anywhere that is not too dry and the water too pure.

Instead of blunt irregular "make-believe" feet, some have straight, slender rays two or three times as long as the body.

The sun-animalcules float and move onward in a mysterious and unknown way, while some others do not move about except when they are very young, but stand on long stalks and have a sort of lattice-work shell.

These are only a few of some hundred of different kinds, many of which are likely to turn up unexpectedly almost anywhere.

Her Horrible Mistake. "I beg your pardon, Miss Knappe, for forcing my attentions upon you when you appear to be so anxious to avoid me, but I can't feel comfortable until I know why you turned your back on me so suddenly at the Bismillah's the other night."

Village Changes Its Name. The American village of S. Whetstone, which is German for hog, has obtained permission from the minister of the interior to change its name to Jaconakowitz.

HOLD TO BARBARIC USAGES

Singular Decorations of Figures in Churches and Cemeteries in the Philippines.

"One of the great curiosities to American eyes is the Philippines," said an army officer, reports the Washington Star, who has just returned after a three-years' detail in the archipelago.

"But one of the funniest things that ever caught my eye was a statue in a cemetery in Luzon. There was a glass case as high as a man and perhaps four feet square placed in a prominent part of the city of the dead that caught and held the eye.

At the foot of this wonderful statue were representations of many of the animals of the Philippine forest all coming up to worship it, and as a curiosity it had no competitor in the entire island.

The padre, however, soon quelled their anger by explaining to them that the Filipino wanted as much decoration for his religious subjects as he could get, and that he would not appreciate a statue of the virgin clad in the garments that are familiar to us as the raiment of purity.

CUBANS YET UNFRIENDLY.

Government Official Reports Result of Observations Made on a Recent Visit.

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Taylor returned to Washington recently from a trip to Cuba. He says that the natives still entertain a dislike for the people of this country.

"The native Cubans do not," he said, "seem very friendly toward us, while the Spaniards are especially friendly. Of course, I do not refer to Cuban officials, but to the people who seem to entertain some sort of a fear that it is the intention, at no remote date, of this country to annex Cuba, and that American enterprise and capital will come in and dominate affairs to the detriment of the interests of Cuban residents.

"Cuba was a pleasant disappointment to me. The city of Havana is kept scrupulously clean. I have never seen an American city where the streets and alleys were cleaner than in Havana, thanks to Gen. Wood and others.

The first general election was held on Sunday while I was there, and passed off quietly, somewhat to the surprise of the officials.

Friars in the Philippines. Late advices from the Philippines state that the church question is practically settled. The friar lands question, from having been a paramount issue, has become a dead one and the friars themselves a back number.

Slaughter of Rabbits in Oregon. It is worth the trip to see a rabbit drive in eastern Oregon, said J. F. McNaught, of Seattle. The farmers drove 10,000 rabbits into a space no larger than that lawn at one I saw a few days ago, pointing to the circular lawn in the court in front of the Portland hotel.

STRAIGHT TALK ON STYLE.

Dama Fashion Arraigned by a Member of the Sex That Obeys Her Dictates.

Mrs. O'Gally surveyed the gowns and hats in the window with a scornful eye and a snuffing-up-of-her-nose.

"What's got the women?" she exclaimed. "That's no way to put money in the bank! Wastefulness is a devil that picks you up and throws you over the fence into the porchouse yard before you can say 'Leggo!'"

"It's far more saving to be economical, and I can prove it. Just look at them hats! For the love of God, who is it pulled around by the nose, who is that what I'd like to know? Of our own choice, I would not wear one of those. And now look at the little dinky gold tassels hanging in among the grapes and roses! What next?"

"What's fashion so useless for, anyhow, and did any one ever grow on American soil or near it?"

"There was a whole back when my Molly would use the hull of her Sunday mornin' readin' in the papers about the stoffes from Paris and lookin' at the full of useless pictures of 'em."

"What's got you?" I says. "Is ably yer brinin' up comin' to this? What's the Paris stoffes to you that has yer livin' to earn? Has the way the queen of Sheba wears her crown put any thing to do with the set of your last year's made-over hat?"

"Paris stoffes is ably right in their places, but what is needed is fewer bits from fashion's cinder and more good, plain directions how to make over last year's dresses and hats so as to fool all the neighbors, and even the old maids livin' in the block.

DIGNITY TAKING A TUMBLE.

An Illustrative Instance of the Inadvisability of Carrying One's Nose Too High.

The crude humor that makes the small boy want to throw a stone at a silk hat on a man bristling with dignity is not to be disposed of as a mere ill-conceived prank of youth.

A gentleman and his wife, who were offended at something the preacher said, gravely rose and stalked toward the door, with their heads held high in a servile disdain.

Fare, the humorist, determined that the wife should keep her nose so high that she did not see her husband drop. She went sailing on and tumbled over him in due confusion.

Hoping to escape quickly, they turned to what looked like a side door. The husband pulled it open with an impressive swing. Before he could close it out tumbled a window pole, a long duster, and a step-ladder.

Blaugher of Rabbits in Oregon. It is worth the trip to see a rabbit drive in eastern Oregon, said J. F. McNaught, of Seattle. The farmers drove 10,000 rabbits into a space no larger than that lawn at one I saw a few days ago, pointing to the circular lawn in the court in front of the Portland hotel.

THE "CHAMPION FAINTER."

One of His Most Successful Tricks Was to Collapse Before Wedding Party.

A fraud on a lady has just come to light on the details of which much time and care must have been expended, and yet the profits amounted to only three shillings, says the London Mail.

A man, who described himself as a ship's mechanic, called on the lady at her residence at Putney. He displayed a most intimate knowledge of the family, and stated that two letters had been found in a berth on a German liner addressed to her two brothers, who were in Australia.

He said that the third mate of the liner had the letters, and gave the lady an address in Hamburg to write to. He added that his expenses had been three shillings, which the lady gave him, promising to communicate with him later.

It is perhaps due to universal education that frauds of this nature are increasing, as opposed to crimes of violence. There is one man, for example, known as the "champion fainter."

One of his feats was to faint outside a house in which a wedding party was assembled. He was tenderly looked after, was given champagne, and wished the newly married pair good luck in a neat speech.

A man who lived on his wits noticed that lamps were being used in a house, while all the others in the row were burning gas. He deduced that something had gone wrong with the meter, and called early next morning "from the company."

"LAND OF NO POVERTY."

Plenty of Opportunities for Energetic Young Men on the Pacific Coast.

The opportunities on the Pacific coast for the right kind of young men with grit and abounding energy are innumerable. Should 2,000,000 young men, with the right sort of material in their make-up, reach the Pacific coast in one day, it is the opinion of conservative western employers that they could all gain a foothold and eventually become men of property and affairs.

There are thousands of young men on the Pacific coast still under 20 years of age who have not the slightest capital, who are now living in beautiful homes, and are actively engaged in enterprises valued all the way from \$20,000 to \$500,000.

The truth is that the citizen in any of the rushing western cities is so occupied in seeking the manifold opportunities in his immediate bustling environment that he lacks the perspective to see that his prosperity and the progress of his city are a part of a wholesale commercial evolution.

In the middle west, for example, 90 new towns have just been built along the lines of the Northwestern railway.

Her Record Never Equalled. The friends of the famous old ship Glory of the Seas make strenuous objection to the German ship Optima being credited with having broken the record of the passage from San Francisco to Newcastle, Australia.

Could Raise Immense Army. The United States could mobilize 45,000 regular army soldiers at any point in the country within five days, could add 85,000 more in the next five days, and in 90 days could enlist, equip and mobilize 500,000 men.

EDITOR AT AGE OF SEVEN.

Arkansas Prodigy in Charge of Young Folks' Department of His Father's Paper.

"Perry Moore" aged seven, editor and business manager. Thus is proclaimed the factum of the little folks' department of the Eureka Springs (Ark.) Weekly Flashlight, published by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Moore.

This 50-pound knight of the quill and case solicits and writes the ads, accepts and runs down the news, sets his own copy, reads proof, and dominates the "devil" in professional style.

The child is not physically strong, and by advice of the physician his propensity has not been encouraged, his schooling having consisted of less than a month at kindergarten.

At the age of five with the aid of a nurse and without his parents' knowledge he learned to read, and one night he brought out and read to them all his picture books, concluding with a demand for "something hard." A first reader which was furnished him recently he scorned, but the following Monday morning he was supplied with a "Second Eclectic."

Saturday night, at his mother's knee, he suddenly interjected in his childish prayer for blessings upon all: "You'll have to bring me another reader, Amen."

He had read every word of the 176 pages in a week.

FARM IS SLIDING AWAY.

Ohio Woman Has Many Grievances Against Railroad Company and Brings Suit.

Because a railroad excavated a quantity of earth from the land adjoining her farm in Bedford, O., Johanna M. Klauer has brought suit for \$2,000 damages.

The plaintiff's list of grievances against the railroad company was a lengthy one. The excavating was done to secure earth with which to make a fill across Tinker creek.

According to the petition, the railroad's land adjoined here, and they dug a vast hole, 50 feet deep and 100 or so wide, just back of her farm. To do this a quantity of dynamite was used, and the plaintiff says that rocks and earth used to rain down upon her house and buildings, damaging them and tearing off sections of roof and siding.

The fourth article of complaint has to do with the plaintiff's well, which for years had supplied her with an endless source of fine water. Owing to the cracks which the blasting operations on the next farm caused to break out in the adjoining territory, this well is now dried up, the plaintiff says.

In addition to all these, the foundations of the plaintiff's domicile have been weakened by the blasting, the company has ruined the road which once passed near her door, and which afforded her with her only means of access to her farm, she complains.

MYSTERY IN HOLLOW VOICE.

Government Engineer Has a Weird Experience of Simple Explanation.

Capt. Charles L. Potter, the United States engineer in Duluth, Minn., was sitting at his desk busy with some figures a few days ago, when he heard a hollow, sepulchral voice in the room.

It sounded like that of some invisible being trying to attract attention. The voice seemed to come from behind his desk, and at other times seemed almost at his elbow.

Then the mystery was cleared up. Capt. Potter smiled and hung up the receiver of the desk telephone, which he had accidentally left off the hook and proceeded with his labors.

Russian Wages Two Cents an Hour.

Wages in Russian factories are two cents an hour and upward. There are thousands who work for a cent an hour and tens of thousands who do not receive 30 cents a day for tea, if and more hours' work.

Job for Centenarians.

That Jersey man who is at the poorhouse at the age of 132 would not have to remain there, says the Chicago Daily News, were he bright enough to write a few patent-medicine testimonials.

MACHINERY NEEDS A REST.

Telegraph Apparatus, Typewriters and Locomotives Get Tired Like Human Beings.

"You are tired, eh?" said the telegraph operator. "Perhaps there are other persons—and things—that get tired, too. What about this instrument here and this wire that runs to Chicago? Don't you suppose they ever get tired?"

The person addressed was inclined to smile faintly at the suggestion, says the New York Sun.

"I'm serious," continued the operator. "I have been an operator for 20 years, and can tell a tired wire the moment my finger touches the key. 'The only rest our wires get is on Sunday. They actually sleep from 12 to 20 hours between midnight of Saturday and eight o'clock Monday morning—just as I do.'"

"The rest does 'em a world of good. On Monday morning they are quick to respond. They actually grasp at the message greedily."

"But on Saturday, after five busy days, we can almost hear a wire crying out to give it rest. It seems to oppose us. It is rebellious. Stungular, you say? Not at all—just nature."

"Don't you think it is the operator that needs the rest, and not so much the wire and the instrument?"

"Not a bit of it. Put a tired out man against a tired out wire and you'll do mighty little business. Put a tired out man against a rested wire and you'll fare nearly as ill. Put a rested man against a tired out wire and you'll work him to death in no time."

"Engineers will tell you that their locomotives get tired. They become track sore, such as a race horse does. They don't steam so well as when rested, nor make such good time."

"One of the famous railroad magnates of the present day owes his rapid promotion to the head of a great system of roads to the fact that he kept his trains on time (other men could not understand how he did it until he explained that he not only gave his train crews a rest, but never allowed his engines to get tired. Even the sons of the smart ones smiled. But they'll all come to his theory in the end."

"This will be a different old world when the machinery of the world gets tired as well as human beings. A learned German professor has just informed the world that he has found life in metals, stone, wood, etc., that those substances actually possess the sense of feeling. It nearly makes one laugh, doesn't it? But unquestionably he is on the road to some great discovery."

"What we term the total depravity of inanimate things is nothing more nor less than weariness. Your typewriting machine is all out of kilter now and then. Give it a rest, and see how beautifully it responds to the touch."

"Clocks fail to keep perfect time, they are too tired to tick and strike. I had a fine watch, which refused to run one day some 15 years ago. A Jeweler said he would fix it for \$20. Two much money, I thought, and the timepiece was carried around in my pocket for three months as dead as Hector."

"I founded it, wound and rewound it, shook it daily a score of times, then got angry and laid it on the shelf. One night I heard its familiar tick. It had got rested and started off on its own account. It's running yet and hasn't cost me a cent for repairs."

"Guns get very tired and refuse to shoot well. I have no doubt that the same also was the Brooklyn bridge a few years ago. It was due to its weariness. It had been on a strain for a long time and wanted a rest. The bridge was suffering from nervous prostration."

"Come over here a minute. Listen to the sound of this instrument. It is working over a tired wire. Can't you tell it?"

"Now listen to this. Here is a new wire just opened to Baltimore. Which is the dead end and which the live wire, which is ready to do its work in the best style?"

"The new one." Of course. Any body could tell."

The Old-Time Naturalists. Old-time naturalists thought that a kind of geese were hatched from barnacles. Giraldus Cambrensis in his "Topographia Hibernica" (1154-1189) tells of birds called "Barnacles," which are produced in a marvelous way from "fir timber tossed along the sea."

Surrounded by shells, they hang head downward; then, becoming coated with feathers, they fall into the water as birds or fly away to the air. In Munster's "Cosmography" (1520) and Gerard's "Herball" (1537) appears an illustration of the "barnacle tree." Geese are seen protruding from some of the fruits of this marvelous plant, while others, set free, are dispersing themselves in the water below. Sir Robert Moray, before the Royal society, of Edinburgh (1677-78), actually described his having seen little shells growing on a fir tree cast up by the waves on the island of Ulst, the shells having within them little birds perfectly shaped, supposed to be barnacles."

Wordy Champions. "I don't see why those pugilists don't hoose New York to fight their claims of championship."

"Why New York?"

"There are more newspapers there and more columns of room in which to fight to a finish."—Baltimore News.

Tommy Knows. "Tommy," said the teacher to a pupil in the primary arithmetic class, "can you tell me what a league is?"

"Yes, ma'am," answered Tommy. "It's eight baseball teams."—Minneapolis Tribune.