

VISION OF SNAKES

San Francisco Woman Hounded by Stories of Reptiles.

Boa Constructors, Rattlesnakes and Dozen Other Kinds of Serpents Seen by Citizens If Hysterical Stories Can Be Believed.

San Francisco.—Boa constructors, rattlesnakes, copper snakes, black snakes, rattlesnakes, rattlesnakes and a dozen other varieties of the reptile family have been seen in and about Parnassus Heights during the last week of the hysterical stories related by sane-eyed citizens of that section are to be believed.

Rumor has it that a king cobra was killed at the end of Stockton street, and further that a rock python, measuring from four to twenty-nine feet in length, gave battle to an army of residents in Woodland avenue and escaped into Sutter forest after having hounded three men. The python was said to be a female.

Patent investigation, however, discloses that the rumors are somewhat exaggerated, but that, like many rumors, they have a foundation in fact. A rattler, carrying ten rattles and a button, was killed in Sutter forest the other day by John Pedina, after it had almost frightened Mrs. L. T. Cruz and her daughter, who reside in Belmont avenue, into hysterics. And the venomous snake measured five feet eight inches in length, as any one can verify by calling at the Park museum, where the reptile rests in alcohol.

Also two big blacksnakes, of a variety unknown to the sober citizens of the district, have been encountered and overcome within the last week in Stanton street. Each measured over six feet in length, as likewise can be proven by communicating with Al Guston, a carpenter, who has earned the title, among residents of Parnassus Heights, of "the snake charmer." Guston killed one of the reptiles and "Snakes" Miller, a plasterer, captured and imprisoned the other.

Now, these three serpents were all subdued within an area of less than 600 square feet and near the residence of Dr. O. C. Joslin in Woodland avenue. The doctor's neighbors say that the managers escaped from captivity in his back yard, where they were being held prisoners, but this the medical man stoutly denies. His wife insists that the last of their pets died a year ago, and the doctor declares they passed away some four months ago. Both insist that no snakes ever escaped from them, but that all were gathered in by the grim reaper.

However, the snakes have been encountered and slaughtered amid considerable hysteria among the women citizens, and not a few quakings among the men.

D. L. Westover, owner of a house now in process of repair at 1161 Stanton street, rewarded "Snakes" Miller, a plasterer employed on the building, with one dollar for killing the six-foot blacksnake found in the front yard.

Westover frequently inspected his dwelling, but has not been seen there, it is said within the last few days. The man, however, is working feverishly beside him. Where the serpents came from is somewhat of a mystery. That they really appeared is certain.

SNAKE IS MASTER OF SHIP

Comes Out of Hold of British Steamer Peruviana and Whole Crew Makes Retreat.

Philadelphia.—Where a big snake came from which made its appearance in the pantry of the British steamship Peruviana as the vessel came up the Delaware river the other day puzzles Capt. Jones, master of the Peruviana, and all the others on board. The crew say that hissing sounds had been heard in the vessel's hold all of the way across the Atlantic, but no one could be induced to go below and investigate.

The first tangible evidence that there was a menagerie below was secured when the snake appeared in the galley and wanted things his own way. The steward did not think that there was any reason for having two boxes in the culinary department and killed the snake. The Peruviana came here from Cuba, where snakes are uncommon. Prior to that she was engaged in the Brazilian trade, where it is believed the snakes came on board.

The other reptiles are hid away in remote places where it is impossible to locate them.

Easily Cross Rubicon

London.—Lecturing at the Royal Photographic society's exhibition, Rev. T. T. Norgate said that while on a recent tour in central Italy he saw the Rubicon, the famous river crossed by Julius Caesar.

To his disappointment, however, it had now become the mere trickle of a stream, in which it would be quite impossible for a man to drown himself.

"Crossing the Rubicon" was a phrase that had lost its significance.

Best Man at 88

London.—William Curtis, aged 88, has just voted as best man at a wedding at Tiverton, Devon.

SHE HAS 400 DESCENDANTS

Age of New York Woman, Married at Age of 12, is 100 Years, Mother of a Big Nation.

New York.—In a corner of an apartment on the second floor of 114 West 42d street, a woman, scarcely 20 years of age, is leaving its imprint, as it were, on the day in devotion, applying to Mrs. Sarah Ester Rosenthal, mother of 20 children, grandmother of more than 150, great-grandmother of perhaps two score, and great-great-grandmother of three or four.

In the absence of proof to the contrary, she claims to have more descendants than any woman living today. The last census made by members of her family gives 400 as the number of Mrs. Rosenthal's descendants.

Mrs. Rosenthal cannot be prevailed upon to tell her age, and her children have no records to establish it accurately. When she arrived in New York eight years ago she confessed to 38 years to the Ellis Island authorities. Family tradition has it that she is 100.

Mrs. Rosenthal's oldest surviving child is Mrs. Pashei Horsh Bar, aged 51, who lives in Warsaw, Russia. The oldest child living in this country is Mrs. Sarah Ester Rosenthal, aged 70, 123 Second street.

Mrs. Rosenthal was born, married and lived most of her life in Beteke, Russian Poland, where her husband died nine years ago at the age of 102. He left to his widow a large farm on the outskirts of the village where the children were reared. She sold this and divided the proceeds among the less prosperous members of her family, those in this country being amply able and willing to provide for her last days.

Mrs. Rosenthal was married when nine years old and when her husband was 12, the wedding being celebrated on the feast of Purim, 100 years ago. The early marriage was solemnized in order that the boy husband might escape compulsory service in the army. It was during the reign of Nicholas I, when for ten years there existed a law by which the sons of Jewish parents were taken when children and reared for the army. This law did not obtain in the case of a married boy, and Calman Bar, Rosenthal took a child bride to escape it. Three years later he provided a home for his bride and she was 13 years of age when her first child was born.

ONE-ARMED MUSICAL GENIUS

Paderewski Discovers Wisconsin Boy Who Can Play Classics with Five Fingers.

La Crosse, Wis.—In Donald Johnson, a Centerville lad born with one arm, Paderewski, the celebrated pianist, believes he has found a genius who will become world-famed.

Monday the lad leaves for New York and Switzerland, where he will be educated musically at the expense of Paderewski.

Through the kindness and strategy of the wife of the pianist was the lad's talent brought to Paderewski's attention. It transpires that when Paderewski played here the boy went to the theater and tried to secure an audience with the master. Paderewski was in an ill humor and turned him off. Struck by the crestfallen appearance of the boy, the pianist's wife called him back and asked him to appear at their private ear.

Paderewski was displeased when the boy appeared, but consented to hear him. So impressed was the pianist that he jumped to his feet in surprise. He declared he knew only one other in the world who could play classics with one hand.

The Johnson boy thought he had been forgotten until a letter came the other day from Paderewski from Switzerland. The letter contained funds and plans for the boy's musical education.

LIMBURGER IS CANCER CURE

Application of Cheese Part of Treatment Discovered by a Colorado Chemist—Similar to Leprosy.

Denver, Col.—Limburger cheese is the principal ingredient of a cancer cure announced by Philip Schuch, Jr., chemist. After the death of his mother 11 years ago from cancer, Schuch began an investigation of the cause and growth of cancer. He ascertains he discovered that the basic germs of cancer are similar to those of leprosy and consumption. His cure consists of a thorough cleansing of the affected parts with liquor of quinine and fresh sweet milk, in equal parts, and the application of poultices of pulped fresh Swiss Limburger cheese, moistened with glycerine. Schuch says that theoretically the formula should cure mild cases of leprosy.

Shoe Lace Saves Him

Darby, Pa.—His action in leaning over to tie his shoe lace saved the life of Walter Ballisbury while he was working out a blast in Squire Harrison's quarry.

As Ballisbury was working below an overhanging boulder weighing about 400 pounds it became loosened and crashed down toward him.

By a remarkable streak of good fortune, just at the time that the huge rock began to fall, Ballisbury's shoe lace became loosened, and he leaned over to tie it when the rock crashed over the place where his head had been only a moment before. He was slightly injured otherwise, however.

WAR ON WHISKERS

Declared as Nesting and Breeding Place for Disease Germs.

Senator of Kansas Says State Has Suffered Greatly from Popular Impression It is a Sort of Home for Galathea.

Topoka, Kan.—Dr. Crumblin, of the Kansas state board of health, is in his new reform of cutting off the whiskers which have made a certain brand of politics famous in this state, thousands of people will rise up and call him "bossed." Dr. Crumblin, in the interest of public health, declares that the long, unkempt beards, which grew luxuriantly upon the faces of some of the men of Kansas, are nothing short of a nesting and breeding place for germs.

Kansas has been getting away from the whisker habit, until now only a few of the older men wear long beards. The young men of the state have learned that a whiskered face is tabooed in good society, and few there are that are displayed in the ballroom, the reception parlor or the theater. It is the middle-aged and old men who still cling to the hirsute appendage, and these constitute the class which Dr. Crumblin is trying to reach in the interest of the public health.

The health board secretary, after an exhaustive investigation, says a heavy growth of whiskers is the natural hiding place for germs and the primary cause of many of the infectious diseases which baffle the skill of the medical fraternity. A man with a thick, heavy growth of whiskers under the chin, Dr. Crumblin says, rarely ever permits water, much less soap, to find its way to the skin, thus carrying around with him constantly a veritable nest of germs sufficient to infect a whole neighborhood.

Not a few men who believe in the whisker as a facial adornment have written to Dr. Crumblin to protest against the liberty he takes in seeking to cut and curtail Kansas beards, but nevertheless, the general public is with the doctor in this latest crusade, as the letters which pour into his office every week amply testify.

State Senator Brady of Lawrence, who has long fought whiskers, is one of Dr. Crumblin's staunch supporters. He says: "In the days of Populism, Kansas acquired a reputation that has done the state incalculable harm. In the east there is a general belief that the whiskers in this state obscure the sun, and no cartoonist would think of picturing a Kansas farmer without adorning his chin with a beard akin to that worn by a Russian nihilist. The man who runs largely to whiskers is generally considered incapable of producing anything else, and is more or less of a joke. Hence the popular impression that Kansas is a sort of perennial harvest home for Galathea has done the state serious harm."

"An official ukase against sidebeards and handdowns from Dr. Crumblin will do much to advertise the true sentiment of Kansas, which is unalterably opposed to superfluous whiskers. The Kansas who wants an object lesson in long whiskers should make a trip through certain sections of Maine and Arkansas. There he will find more germ protecting beards in an hour than he will see in Kansas in a week. The fact is that illac whiskers are so rare in Kansas that when a stranger comes into a town wearing a large bunch of them he is a sensation."

BOY BUILDS BIG TELESCOPE

Studios Wisconsin Lad Gains Fame Among Astronomers and Scientists by Work.

Madison, Wis.—John E. Mellish, the Cottage Grove boy, whose amateur astronomical observations with a small six-inch telescope of his own manufacture resulted in the discovery of a new comet which bears his name, has just completed a new telescope with a 16 1/2-inch lens, which is the same size and of the same power as that in the Washburn observatory at the University of Wisconsin.

Such an instrument would cost \$2,400 if purchased from the manufacturers, but by laboriously grinding his own lenses by hand and building the entire structure of the machine himself, young Mellish spent only \$50 for materials. He is preparing to study the Halley comet with his new telescope.

Mellish intends to make astronomy his profession, but will not give up the making of instruments. His discovery of the Mellish comet two years ago brought him media from the astronomical societies of America and Mexico.

Dream Foretells Death

St. Johnsbury, Vt.—L. E. Hull, aged 56, a veteran carriage-maker, was found dead in bed by his wife. He had been in poor health and recently sold out his business. Early that morning his wife dreamed he was dead, and upon going to his room found him lifeless. The cause was heart disease.

Sentenced for Kissing

Berlin.—Convicted of stealing a kiss from a young woman, a peasant at Neutribbia has been sentenced to four months imprisonment. A university student at Marburg has been fined \$100 for a similar offense.

NO INTEREST IN BULLFIGHTS

Mexican Sport Rapidly Losing Favor—Immigrant Problem—Reports of Slavery Denied.

Chicago.—The popularity of the bullfight has decreased in Mexico to such an extent that it has been proposed in the favor of the better classes by grand opera and drama according to Senator Ballezo Davalos, Mexico's charge d'affaires at Washington, who came to Chicago to address the Association of Commerce at the annual banquet.

"To foreign capital," he remarked, "we owe much of our recent advancement, and also to the great peace which has reigned over the land for so many years. The bullfights are slowly dying out and today only the people of the lower classes attend them to any extent. Whether they will ever cease completely is hard to say, but they are no longer the most important entertainment of the people of Mexico. We now have high-class opera and drama, made possible through the efforts of the government, which helps to get foreign companies to bring their best opera and drama to the theater in the City of Mexico. The admission price is made low enough so that even the poor people may attend."

The crying need in Mexico, said Senator Davalos, is the right kind of immigration.

"We need good agricultural laborers especially. The resources of the country in the agricultural line are as many and as good as have been pictured and described. The idea that slavery exists in any of the states is not true. Some of the workers of the lower classes may seem to be under slavery in Yucatan, but they are not."

"Of course, the greatest event of late has been the meeting of the two presidents, Taft and Diaz. That meeting has a great significance to the people of Mexico and also to the Central and South American republics. Several ministers in Washington have expressed to me their gratification over the affair."

VALET TELLS OF MEREDITH

Novelist's Only Luxuries, He Says, Were Good Wine and Cigars—Interesting Side-light.

London.—Interesting side-light is thrown on the late George Meredith's mode of working in an interview with Frank Cole, the novelist's favorite valet, published in the London Press. "Sometimes in the early days of my 30 years' service at Boxhill," says Cole, "my master worked all day, but on other days he did little or nothing. He never seemed to care about his own comfort and spent all the year round in the little chalet in his garden."

His only luxuries were good wine and cigars. He was a splendid judge of both and was delighted at the occasional acquisition of an extraordinary vintage. He was keenly interested in politics, and shortly before his death said that the suffragettes had ruined their cause by their violent methods.

Cole was Meredith's handy man and accompanied the novelist on his daily walks later conducting his bath chair and donkey chair and chatting with him freely. Though he has sold a handful of manuscripts to P. P. Morgan for \$1,000, he possesses the dining table, a set of novels and other relics of his master.

FARM IN MOVING PICTURES

United States Department of Agriculture Secures Thousands of Feet of Films.

Ithaca, N. Y.—In connection with the New York state department of agriculture, the United States department of agriculture is arranging to give a series of moving picture demonstrations of how to conduct a poultry farm.

Officials at the college said that during the past week L. S. Williams of Washington had been taking several thousand feet of films at the poultry farm and that if the experiment was a success he would return to get a complete pictorial account of the work that is being done here.

Moving pictures were taken of the poultry course students at work at the various poultry houses, feeders, incubators and machines, and a panorama of the entire college poultry farm, with its thousands of fowls of all kinds, was made.

It is believed that they will be of special educational value at county and state fairs.

Mint Lincoln Pennies

Philadelphia.—So great has been the demand for the new Lincoln pennies that nothing else has been coined at the mint since the end of June. The coinage to date totals 70,000,000 cents, equal to the average annual output of the common penny. It is believed the Lincoln penny will soon supersede the old Indian head type, as increasing numbers of the latter are being returned to the mint for recoinage as Lincoln cents.

Maid Gets Money and Grave

New York.—In her will, just filed, Mrs. Josephine Floyd Jones, who was a member of one of the oldest families in Long Island, left \$10,000 and her personal wardrobe to her faithful servant, Hannah Davenport. The will gave the servant a grave in the family burial plot. A veteran sea servant is left \$2,000. The will disposes of an estate valued at \$1,254,700, mostly to the children of Mrs. Floyd Jones.

WERE ONCE ASIATICS

California Professor Thinks Come from Across Pacific.

Claims Dialects and Records Throw New Light on Ethnological Problem—One Tribe Related to Famous Aztecs.

Berkeley, Cal.—Continued with the problem of aboriginal languages of the California Indians, so highly developed that it must have taken thousands of years to work out their evolution, Prof. A. L. Kroeber of the anthropological department of the University of California has suggested the theory that the tribes must be related in some way to the Asiatic peoples across the Pacific.

This theory, he believes, is borne out by certain peculiar resemblances, and is associated with the discovery that at least one tribe in the neighborhood of Los Angeles, is intimately related to the famous Aztecs of old Mexico. The theory is of the greatest importance in the study of ethnology, new facts and theories in this branch of science being eagerly awaited by savants in this country and in Europe.

The question of migration and distribution of the great races is intimately bound up with the problem. As yet there is not sufficient data to advance it in anything more than a tentative form, but the members of the department of anthropology in the university are working hard to bring out all the facts.

Written records of 22 different Indian languages and dialects have been secured by members of the department, many of them being supplemented by phonographic records. The total number of distinct aboriginal dialects in California is now estimated to have been 155. Few Indians are still found who speak a language that has not been previously noted. Such a new dialect was only this month recorded by Prof. A. L. Kroeber from the Sacramento valley.

The numerous languages fall in about twenty groups, known as families or stocks. All the dialects within one group show a certain similarity, but there is no resemblance whatever between one group and another. Owing to the absence of historical records for more than a very short period, the similarities and differences between the various languages furnish the best means of classifying the Indian tribes and of determining their relationships and origin.

In this way it has been ascertained that certain tribes of Hopland and Modoc dialects have a bearing from the same source as the Indians of Alaska and the Aushes. The Indians that formerly inhabited Los Angeles county are relatives of the famous Aztecs of Mexico. The majority of the California Indians have no relatives outside of the state, so that they are thought to have either originated in the state or to have sprung from ancestors that lived there many thousands of years ago.

MAN WAS POOR BUT HONEST

Stranger in Kansas City, Out of Work, Returns \$70 He Stole Out of Mattress.

Kansas City, Mo.—Mrs. G. M. Myers, 433 Armour boulevard, always has a dread of sneak thieves. For this reason she rarely hired strange men to work about the house. When Mrs. Myers planned her fall house cleaning she was compelled to go to one of the local charitable institutions to get help. The next morning a laborer, giving the name of Harry Clark, was sent to do the work. Before the man arrived Mrs. Myers looked up her silverware and other valuables. She had \$70 in bills. These were hidden in a mattress in her bedroom. Clark took apart the beds and dragged out the mattress in her bedroom. Clark was surprised to see a roll of greenbacks fall to the ground.

"Excuse me, madam, but I found this money in one of the mattresses," the man said, extending the roll of bills in one hand.

Mrs. Myers counted the bills and found there was not a dollar missing. "This experience," she said afterward, "convinced me that poor men out of work are as honest as any others."

RAILROAD IS GOOD FARMER

Converts Its Waste Land into Scientific Agricultural Stations and Wins Prizes.

New York.—Officials of western railroads are interested in the success of the Long Island railroad as a farmer. That corporation's experiment may be repeated extensively on waste lands along great systems throughout the country. After five years of work on 87 acres of waste land purchased by the Long Island road the two experimental farms have received 21 first, 23 second and six third prizes at the Riverhead fair.

By placing graduates of western agricultural colleges in charge of the work the railroad demonstrated that scientific methods can convert waste lands into profitable farms.

Army Pageant in 1910

London.—Sweden from celebrated British battalions and phibrids in the history of English regiments will be shown at an army pageant to be organized by F. R. Benson about the end of June, 1910.

LARGE METEOR HITS FENCE

Found in Farm Near Boston and 6 Miles East. Feet Into Earth—Live Slag Iron.

Woburn, Mass.—A meteorite, weighing 10 pounds, dropped on the farm of W. P. Nickerson, a former newspaper man of Boston, in Brooksville.

That the meteor struck the earth with fearful force is attested by the fact that it buried itself nearly eight feet in the soil.

The wandering body came within 15 feet of falling on the boundary line between Walpole and Newwood and rested when found less than ten feet from the Walpole line in Newwood. Covered by eight feet of earth, it might have remained for years without being discovered if it had not in the course of its fall broken a fence which separates two fields on Mr. Nickerson's property. A workman on the place making his rounds of the fence, discovered the form broken and near by a hole almost two feet in diameter.

He reported the matter to Mr. Nickerson, believing that the fence, which stands about ten feet from the Walpole line, must have been broken by cattle and that rabbits had been burrowing in the field. After an examination Mr. Nickerson decided that the hole was not made by rabbits and instructed his men to dig to the bottom of the cavity. After 20 minutes' digging they unearthed a peculiar looking piece of slag, which looked as if it had been subjected to some powerful degree of heat and had been discharged from a furnace.

The conclusion reached by those who viewed the strange rock is that it is of meteoric formation. It is of a grayish color, closely resembling iron slag. It is rough and corrugated on the exterior, but is of solid formation. While measuring barely two feet in diameter, its weight is estimated above 200 pounds, and the efforts of three men were required to place it in a wagon.

The meteor has been taken to the home of Mr. Nickerson in Newwood and will probably be turned over either to some geological society of this city or to the museum at Harvard.

While the exterior of the meteor is dull, heavy scales radiate from the center of the meteor. If one holds a hand against it long enough the heat is readily felt.

BOYS SEEK INDIAN SCALPS

Quarter of "Fighters," Each Twelve Years Old Saves Up \$19 and Started on Warpath.

Chicago.—Four boys—each 12 years old—have saved up \$19 and ran away from their homes in Cleveland, O., to fight Indians out west, were captured in the LaSalle street depot with out a battle by Detectives Bailey and Campbell. The boys had purchased tickets for St. Louis, where Indians were believed to abound, and were waiting for a train when they were ambushed by the detectives.

At first they explained that their grandmother had died and they were going to her funeral, but later, weeping they admitted that they were on the warpath against the red men.

The boys are Clarence S. Hoff, 831 Eighty-first street, son of E. H. Schaef, James Shaw, 909 1/2 Market street, son of W. P. Shaw, William Lang, 914 Market street, son of J. W. Napford. "Where were you boys going?" asked Capt. Woods.

"Well, captain to tell the truth," said the Lang boy, "me and my friends had been planning a trip out west for nearly a year. We had been selling papers and doing odd jobs and had saved up \$19 between us. Last Saturday we packed up our suitcases and arrived in Chicago Saturday evening." The boys were taken to the Harrison street annex, where they were held until word was received from their parents, when they were shipped back home.

NO CRIME TO HUG AND KISS

Not an Attempt to Do Violence, But Generally an Evidence of Affection—Man Acquitted.

Baltimore, Md.—In the habeas corpus case of James Fisher, before Judge Elliott in the court of common pleas, the point arose as to whether hugging and kissing is a crime. Fisher had been committed by Justice Robert W. Beach to jail for five years and fined \$25 and costs on the charge of assaulting a girl in Baltimore by hugging and kissing her. Thomas J. Mason, who represented Fisher, made a point that hugging and kissing was not a crime nor an attempt to do violence, but generally was an evidence of affection, and as the charge did not show that Fisher's action was against the will of the girl, the prisoner should be discharged. Judge Elliott smiled and ordered the prisoner discharged without comment. Fisher already had served a year of his sentence, counting time off for good behavior.

Hits Theater in Will

New York.—The will of Mrs. Mary R. Robinson, writer of children's stories, who committed suicide, bequeaths \$20,000 for the support of disabled persons of good character who do not attend theatrical performances.

Letter Long Lost

London.—Wedged between the counter and a partition at Moira post office, Leicester, a letter posted 21 years ago, addressed to the late Samuel Haywood, a pipe manufacturer, has just been found.