

PHYSICIAN TAMED FISH.

Began by Feeding Young and Soon Gained Confidence of the Whole Family.

That fish may be tamed like animals or birds has recently been shown by a Swiss physician who contributes to a recent number of the Appenzeller Zeitung an interesting and curious narrative. He says: "I have never yet heard or read that anyone has tried to tame fish in water, and I was therefore desiring not a little to test the eventual possibility of doing so when a very favorable opportunity was offered me. I was taking baths for my health in a private bathing house on the Lake of Lungau. At the north and south sides of the building there live in a heap of stones a family of loaches (Caradina), consisting of six different spawnings—altogether perhaps 100 or 150 fishes.

The loaches (the largest of which might be about as long as a fullgrown brook trout) used often to swim over into the bathhouse, but would flee when I entered the water. I then sat down at the time when the warmth of the water permitted doing so) a whole hour, up to my neck in the water, supporting my hands on my knees and holding in each a piece of bread as big as my fist, so that it was thoroughly soaked in the water. A like procedure I repeated in the evening, and so on the following days, each forenoon and each evening. "At first the loaches would have absolutely nothing to do with the toothsome morsel placed at their disposal, but anxiously avoided the living statue in the water, which probably was not quite as immovable as the marble ones in the museum. Soon, however, several members of the youngest spawning ventured, with the most extreme caution, to take a nibble at the bread, quickly starting back if my hands moved even a mill metre.

NO XMAS FUN IN SCOTLAND

Presbyterianism Prejudices Holiday of North Britishers—Ancient Superstition Is Cause.

In connection with an ancient superstition of Scotland against spinning on Christmas or Yule day, and the determination of the Calvinistic clergy to put down all such notions, the following amusing passage is quoted from John Hamilton's "Facile et facile."

"The ministers of Scotland—in contempt of the rather halie dayes obseruit by England—cause their wyfs and seruants spin in oppia sicht of the people upon Yule day; and their affectionate auditors constrains their tenants to yok their pleuchs on Yule day in contempt of Christ's Nativiteit, whilk our lord has not left unpunished; for their oxin raa wod (mad) and brak their nekis, and leamt (lamed) sum pleugh men as is notoriously knawn in sundrie partes of Scotland."

In consequence of the Presbyterian form of church government, as constituted by John Knox and his coadjutors on the model of the ecclesiastical polity of Calvin, having taken such firm root in Scotland the festival of Christmas, with other commemorative celebrations retained from the Romish calendar by the Anglicans and Lutherans, is comparatively unknown in that country, at least in the lowlands. The tendency to mirth and jollity at the close of the year, which seems almost inherent in human nature, has in north Britain been for the most part transferred from Christmas and Christmas-eve to New Year's day and the preceding evening, known by the appellation of Hogmanay. In many parts of the highlands of Scotland, however, and also in the county of Forfar, and one or two other districts, the day for general merry-making is Christmas.

Fiddling Lawyer.

The trial was over and the red-faced man had lost his case. "You know," said the kind judge, "if a man dances he must pay the fiddler."

"I know that, judge," replied the man with the florid complexion, as he pointed straight at his lawyer; "but it's pretty hard to have to pay a fiddler like that!"—Yonkers Statesman.

Arboreal Observation.

"That supercilious man is always talking about his family tree." "Yes," answered Miss Careyne, "I have observed in nature that it is always the smallest twig that does the most rustling."—Washington Star.

MAPPING THE WORLD

TASK THAT PROGRESSES WITH ITS GROWTH ONLY.

What Has Been Accomplished in the Work in the Last Half Century—Many Changes Made.

The lament of a well-known geographical professor that the whole of the world is not explored and mapped out, seems almost asking too much, when one compares the maps of the globe to-day with those of 50 years ago. Take the Universal Gazetteer, published in London in 1855, for instance. Even the boundaries of Europe were not exactly known then, says the Brooklyn Eagle.

"Europe," says the Gazetteer, "is bounded by the sea in all directions except the east, where it adjoins Asia by a boundary line formed by the River Don." This astonishing statement makes the Volga an Asiatic river and excludes the Ural mountains as a European boundary altogether. But Europe was really very different in those days. Two of the present six great powers did not exist. There was no such thing as the German empire or the Italian kingdom. By "Germany" was then understood the present Austrian empire, and the other German-speaking states. The kingdom of Hanover, which has vanished altogether, was nearly as populous as the still-existing kingdom of Wurtemberg. Prussia, which is now the chief state in Germany, was a small kingdom, with a population of 12,000,000. There was a state known as the Two Sicilies. There were no such countries as Servia, Roumania or Bulgaria, and Turkey-in-Europe stretched to the Austrian and Russian frontiers.

Asia, as it was depicted 50 years ago, looks little less strange. Japan was a "small country with a fanatical population, peculiarly impervious to European ideas." All northern Asia was denominated vaguely "Russian Tartary," and the vast deserts east of the Caspian sea as "Tartaria." The great range of the Hindu Kush apparently did not exist, for it is not marked on the map. More astonishing still is it to meet the Caucasus mountains boldly situated due north of the Caspian sea, instead of to the west. According to the cartographer of 1854, an enormous chain of mountains started on Russia's European frontier and ran absolutely without a break as far as Behring straits.

Africa was still less like what it is to-day. The "Mountains of the Moon" then stretched in an almost straight line from near Cape Verde on the west coast to Abyssinia on the east. America was only partly explored. A great band of country, stretching from Alaska across the "Stony mountains" to the source of the Mississippi, was made up of "independent countries," Chicago, St. Louis and San Francisco were not considered worth marking on the map. Still more remarkable reads the description of South America. The present vast Argentine Republic was then a part of the "Republic de la Plata," while everything south of Buenos Ayres was "Patagonia, a country which is uninhabitable by Europeans." Chile, now one of the most important states, is dismissed as one of the most insignificant. South of Brazil was a mysterious country, known as "Banda Oriental." Paraguay existed, but there was then no such country as Venezuela.

Land Without Police.

A policeless land has been discovered by Nelson Annandale in the Faeroes, which are commonly regarded as little arctic rocks teeming with sea birds, but which his tourist glasses revealed as blooming isles with a climate warmer than Scotland, despite their location several hundred miles north of Shetland, with a vegetation a number of inches higher, including buttercups larger and bushes brighter than are seen on the mainland. The morale of the population has been so splottish that while a few years ago several dozen policemen were installed, guardians of the public peace have proved superfluous and the force has been disbanded.

Extraordinary Dentistry.

Perhaps the greatest dental operation on record was performed upon an elephant in the City of Mexico. The aching tooth was 12 inches long and four inches in diameter at the root. After Mr. Elephant had been securely fastened with chains his mouth was pried open and a quantity of cocaine applied to deaden the pain. When this was done, a hole was bored through the tooth and an iron bar inserted. Then a rope was twisted around the bar and four horses attached.

Joneses in Wales.

"The number of Joneses in Wales is illustrated by a story told of a certain Oxford college, much resorted to by Welshmen. A man from another college went into its "quad" in search of a friend, and called "Jones!" All the windows looking on the "quad" flew open. "I want John Jones," said the man. Half the windows closed. "I mean the John Jones who has got a toothbrush." All the windows closed but one.

No Indication of Jealousy.

"So that is one of the friends of your childhood. He must be in prosperous circumstances," remarked the bystander. "True," replied the millionaire, "but how did you know it?" "Because I noticed that he didn't remind you of the days when you didn't have a pair of shoes to your name."—Detroit Free Press.

TAMMANY COMBINATION.

Answers to Questions Which Should Interest Students of Social Conditions.

What is Tammany hall? Why are various political organizations in New York uniting in an attempt to compass its defeat, and how does it happen that it is thought necessary to appeal to everything that is not Tammany to unite against it? The answers to these questions should interest students of social conditions more than the student of politics, says Youth's Companion.

To take them in reverse order, it may be said that the vehemence of the appeal made by the anti-Tammany forces is due to their knowledge of the hold which Tammany has upon the loyalty of a large body of voters. The Tammany leaders have attached to themselves a following large enough to carry the elections in ordinary years, when the people are not aroused by some great political scandal. Those followers are loyal because the leader takes care of them. When they are out of work he finds them employment; when they are arrested he goes to the police court and secures their release on bail; when they are sick he gets a doctor for them, and he gives free dinners on Thanksgiving day and picnics in summer.

Those who seek the defeat of Tammany maintain that the political organization exists because its leaders desire primarily to make money out of the business of government, and have no interest in the efficient conduct of affairs, save as that keeps the voters complacent. That they are in politics for personal gain has been admitted by many Tammany leaders from Tweed's time to the present.

Tammany hall itself is a building. It belongs to the Society of Tammany, organized in 1789 as a protest against the aristocracy of the Society of Cincinnati. The general committee of the Tammany democracy, whose headquarters are in the building, is the executive council of the political body popularly known as Tammany hall.

The real point of opposition to Tammany, then, is that its political power is a combination of two elements which are in politics for what is to be made out of it—the leaders, greedy of money which office of the control of offices enables them to get out of the government, and the followers, whose idea of good government is that government which will protect them from the consequences of their poverty, illness, misfortune or crime.

LONDON'S POLICE SYSTEM.

The Great City Is One of the Safest Urban Communities in the World.

The report of the London commissioner of police for 1904, though presenting figures which in the aggregate seem to show that life and property are very unsafe in the world's metropolis, in reality proves that the great capital is one of the safest urban communities in the world. The authorized strength of the London metropolitan police force is nearly 17,000 men, who are expected to protect a population of about 7,400,000. Yet of this huge population only 126,530 were arrested during the year. In addition to those arrested 112,723 defendants were "summoned" before magistrates for trivial offenses.

One Londoner in 28 appeared before a magistrate in obedience to some form of compulsory process. In thousands of instances the offenses charged were of such venial types as riding on the steps of omnibuses, cleaning carts in the roadway and neglecting to sweep chimneys, an important requirement in London, affecting the fire risk. The many arrests for petty breaches of the law show that the London police keep very close watch on the streets. Their activities may seem meddlesome to Americans accustomed to ignore certain minor ordinances, but the comfort, safety and convenience of the public are probably more carefully considered in the streets of London—allowance being made for the great congestion of traffic—than in those of any large American city.

The most interesting feature of the report is the emphatic approval of the finger-print system of detecting criminals, a system whose value is now fully recognized throughout the United Kingdom. There were 2,618 finger-print "recognitions" during the year by the metropolitan police. The commissioner says that the result obtained is ten times larger than the highest figures secured by the "anthropometric" method, which was abandoned in 1901. The finger-prints of criminals left on cashboxes, window sills, bottles, glasses and other things have been the means of enabling the police to present to the courts valuable corroborative and circumstantial evidence.

Hard on the Tramps.

Mr. Grumpe—I'd just like to know what good all these cooking school lessons are doing our daughter.

Mrs. G.—Everything she cooks she brings home.

"Yes; and none of the family will touch 'em, and the things are just thrown away."

"No, they are not. She gives them to tramps."

"Ugh! What good does that do?"

"We are getting rid of the tramps."

—Stray Stories.

The Modern Way.

"Young man," said the old person who had attained considerable wealth and fame, "you must alimb the ladder of success round by round. It will not do to—"

"Skiddoo for you, uncle!" airily replied the earnest youth. "What's the use of plugging along on a ladder when the express elevators stop at every floor?"—St. Louis Republic.

NOT FOR THE ESKIMOS

CIVILIZATION WOULD BE A CURSE TO THESE PEOPLE.

They Are Primitive and Unspoiled in Their Isolated and Independent Condition, Says Feary.

Scattered along the shores of an arctic oasis, the west coast of Greenland, between Melville bay and Kane basin, a little tribe of Eskimos—they number but 253 in all—is found maintaining its existence in complete isolation and independence.

In several ways these Eskimos are unique among aboriginal tribes, and their idiosyncrasies in these matters compel my admiration and respect, writes Robert E. Peary, in the New York World.

They have no unnatural or depraved appetites or habits, no stimulants or narcotics, no narcotics, no slow poisoning. Nor do they in any way mutilate or disfigure the form the Creator gave them or modify or pervert the natural functions. Neither have they any medicines. Their diseases are principally rheumatism and lung and bronchial troubles. The causes of death among the men come largely under the terse western expression "with their boots on."

A kayak captures and the occupant is hurled into the icy water; a hunter harpoons a walrus or bearded seal from the ice; a blight of the line catches round arm or leg and the big brute drags him under to his death; an iceberg capsize as he is passing it; a rock or snow-slide from the steep shore cliffs crushes him, or a bear tears him mortally with a stroke of its paw, and so on. Occasionally, in the past starvation has wiped out an entire village.

On the death of a man or woman, the body, fully dressed, is laid straight upon its back on a skin or two, and some extra articles of clothing placed upon it. It is then covered with another skin, and the whole covered in with a low stone structure to protect the body from dogs, foxes and ravens.

A lamp with some blubber is placed close to the grave, and if the deceased is a man his sledge and kayak, with his weapons and implements, are placed close by, and his favorite dogs, harnessed and attached to the sledge, are strangled to accompany him.

If a woman, her cooking utensils and the frame on which she has dried the family boots and mittens are placed beside the grave. If she has a dog, it is strangled to accompany her; and if she has a baby in the hood, it, too, must die with her.

If the death occurred in a tent, the poles are removed, allowing it to settle down on the site, and it is never used again, but rats or it finally blown away. If the death occurred in an igloo, it is vacated and not used again for a long time.

To many a good person the thought at once arises: "Poor things! why don't we send some missionaries to them and convert or civilize them? Or, why wouldn't it be a good plan to take them away from their awful home to a pleasanter region?" To both of these I answer at once: "God willing, never!" When I think of the mixed race in South Greenland, which, in spite of the fostering care of the Danish government, is still like most half-breed human products, inferior to either original stock, when I think of the miserable wretches along the west coast of Baffin's bay, vile with disease, vitiated with rum, tobacco and contact with the wretches, and then think of my unconquered, pure-blooded, vigorous, faithful little tribe I say: "No, God grant no civilization to curse them."

What I have done in the past, and hope to do in the future, is to put them in a little better position to carry on their struggle for existence; give them better weapons and implements, lumber to make their dwellings dryer, instructions in a few fundamental sanitary principles, and one or two items of civilized food, as coffee and biscuit, allies to rout the demons starvation and cold.

Fortunately for them, with no possessions to excite cupidity, with a land in which no one but themselves could conquer a living, they are likely to be left in peace, to live out the part appointed them by the Creator, undisturbed by efforts to understand the white man's ideas of God, of right, of morality, and uncontaminated by his vices or diseases till the "Great Night" ends forever and the "Great Ice" dissolves in the convulsions of the last day.

Such are the people who, in God's wisdom, are destined, perhaps, to be the instrument of solving the mystery of the centuries and giving to this country the last of the great geographical prizes.

Posthumous Fame.

George Romney was an artist whose popularity, although the man himself has long been dead, seems to increase every year. Eight of his canvases went for four figures during the season just closed, and one of these, which brought \$30,000, was quite accidentally discovered—rolled up, much creased and soiled with dirt—in a house in the north of England. Romney is believed to have painted nearly 1,000 works, chiefly portraits, and several that have appeared in the sale room of recent years have been brought to light in the most improbable places.

Family Affair.

Mrs. Hix (angrily)—I shall go right home to my mother, Mr. Hix. I saw you kissing that horrid Miss Pinkleigh in the conservatory last night.

Hix—Oh, that's all right, my dear. It was only a brotherly kiss.

"But she isn't your sister."

"Yes, she is. She promised to be a sister to me a couple of weeks before I became engaged to you."—Chicago Daily News.

QUEEN OF CHRISTMAS TREE

Mistress Doll Is the Occupant of This Office—More Attention Paid to the Toys.

Queen of the Christmas tree is Mistress Doll. No matter what else he may have forgotten, Santa Claus never leaves behind him disappointment if for little girls he has dolls enough to go around. The tastes of boys differ, for even in infancy the fickle, changeable masculine soul must assert its characteristics. Some boys will choose tops, others want drums, while the embryo savants or scientists crave books or cameras.

Shopkeepers give more attention to the quality of their doll stock than to that of any other toy they carry, because they sell more dolls and the demand for new sorts is constant and imperative.

Most of the figures sold are of foreign make, although their manufacture in this country is a branch of business that receives increasing attention.

German makers of dolls lack originality. They follow almost entirely the designs brought to them year after year by American buyers. Their dolls are well set up and durable, but they lack the chic which the best French makers impart to their goods. German dolls seldom or never have good hair. Tow or any cheap substance that will serve as used to represent the coiffure. As the average little girl stipulates in her prayers that Santa will please bring her a doll with "really hair that she can comb and curl," many a household might be embarrassed did not American shopkeepers provide themselves with wigs of natural hair for the dolls. The tow locks may be removed from the head of the doll and the wig fastened on its cranium, to the great satisfaction of the small child, but to the pecuniary inconvenience of the fond parent, who must pay from \$2.50 to \$3.50 for the wig.

Dolls are this season of greater variety and elegance than ever before. The handsomest come from "la belle France" and have jointed limbs, indestructible heads and long hair, fine as silk.

The dolls are each packed in a paste-board box of coffinlike shape and swathed in layer after layer of fine paper. When the boxes are opened, some of the dolls are found to be attired, while others are clad in but one thin white garment.

The Paris dressed dolls are the costliest of all. Some of them cost \$50 apiece. A favorite mode of dressing the dolls is to array them in a box-plaited short coat, with a cloth belt to hold the garment down at the waist. Over the white frock the plaited skirt has a beautiful flare to show the silk lining of the coat. A white undersleeve projects from the coat sleeve, and there is at the throat a tiny white bow. The hat is usually trimmed with a bit of ribbon and a few feathers.

Any clever woman can dress a doll to look quite as well as the imported figures. When arrayed in a dainty frock, coat, hat and underwear, the home-dressed dolly can be scarcely distinguished from the miniature Parisian belle.

HAVE RESPECT FOR LAW.

Icelanders Will Go So Far as to Arrest Themselves If Thought Necessary.

It would be impossible to exaggerate an Icelanders respect for the law. Only those people who have traveled or lived some time with the people have any conception of their honesty.

A trader who recently visited one of the northern stations of Iceland says he was traveling on horseback near Reykjavik, when he met a man riding his pony toward the capital.

"What is your name?" asked the trader.

"Stefan."

"Where are you going?"

"To prison."

"What for?"

"Stealing sheep."

"No one taking you?"

"No. The sheriff was busy, so he gave me this warrant and sent me on by myself."

Whereupon the two exchanged snuff and parted.

Four days later, as the trader was returning, he again met this fellow, evidently on the way back to his home.

"Why," he exclaimed, naturally surprised, "you said you were going to prison?"

"So I was, and I went, but they would not let me in."

"Why not?"

"I lost the warrant, and the sheriff at Reykjavik said he could not receive me without it."

"But why, then, are you not already at home? You should have made the journey in two days."

"I spent two days looking for it," was the simple answer.

They Were Dense.

Governess (looking over geography paper)—What's this? "The people of Lancashire are very stupid!" Where in the world did you get that idea from?

Pupil—Out of the book. It says that Lancashire is remarkable for its dense population.—Punch.

Complimentary.

Guest—Well, you have a pretty home and a beautiful wife. I should think you'd be jealous of her.

Host—To tell you the truth, I am. But I never invite anybody here who could possibly attract the attention of any sensible woman.—Cleveland Leader.

Life of the Camel.

Camels are fit to work at five years old, but their strength begins to decline at 25, although they usually live to 40.

GIANT IS NEARLY STARVED

Losses Popularity and Collapse on the Street in Hamburg, Germany.

Hamburg.—An extraordinary scene was witnessed in the streets here when Kappoff, the Kibergese giant, who until recently was the chief attraction at local exhibitions throughout Germany, collapsed on the pavement for want of food, Kappoff, who measures a little less than Macnnow, the Russian giant, has since the latter's advent, entirely lost his popularity, and with it his means of livelihood. Unable to obtain a fresh engagement, he applied, when half starved, at the workhouse for indoor relief, promising to pay for his keeping as soon as he should succeed in procuring a fresh engagement.

The workhouse authorities, however, were somewhat aghast at the idea of being burdened with a giant, and reluctantly declined to give him hospitality. Thus the wretched giant wandered aimlessly about from street to street, followed by troops of jeering children, until at last he was overcome with sheer weakness.

Kappoff was finally assisted by a party of agricultural laborers just returned from harvesting, who having revived him with brandy, escorted him to a restaurant, where he partook of a meal consisting of three plates of soup, four pounds of beefsteak, three portions of ham and eggs, two heaped-up plates of potatoes and cabbage and 14 apple tarts, the whole washed down with six pints of beer.

The harvesters were somewhat aghast at the amount of food consumed by the giant. When this bill was presented to them it swallowed a considerable portion of the money that they had made in harvesting.

Later, followed by a band of noisy children bearing lighted torches, he was escorted to the outlying camping ground of the agriculturists and provided with a bed for the night.

SURRENDERERS' AFTER YEARS

Murderer's Conscience Hounds Him Into Giving Up—Has a Family.

Shenandoah, Pa.—A wanderer on the face of the earth, and conscience-stricken at having shot to death Constable John Dando in a police seven years ago, Wojciech Blalecki surrendered himself at Springfield, Mass.

It was on the night of October 12, 1899, that Blalecki beat his wife, and when Constable Dando went to arrest him Blalecki discharged a gun, the contents of which struck Dando in the breast. In the confusion Blalecki escaped. Dando died within 24 hours.

Blalecki's picture and description were sent broadcast, but without effect, although \$700 reward was offered by the county commissioners and borough council.

The prisoner says that after escaping from the house he met some men on the railroad, to whom he related his story, and they advised him to flee. He is 44 years old and has a family here.

IDEA FOR WIZARD BURBANK

Singular Effect of a Cat's Intermittent Upon Growth of Gooseberries, Related by Rival Resident.

London.—A new way in which animals may benefit the human race without yielding their bodies for food is suggested by a letter recently received by the secretary of a rural English society. It is as follows:

"Sir—I particularly wish the satyety to be called to consider the case which follows, as I think it might be mid Trans-Actionable in the next Reports. My wife had a Tomb Cat that day. Being a torture shell and a grate favorite, we had him buried in the garden and for the sake of the enrichment of the mould I had the carks deposited under the roots of a Gooseberry Bush (The Frute being up till then of a smooth kind). But the next Season Frute, after the Cat was buried, the Gooseberries was all hairy, and more remarkable the Catpilers of the same Bush was all of the same Hairy Description."

STRANGE FOSSILS FOUND.

Three-Toed Horses, Giant Hogs and Animal Part Deer and Part Hog Lived in Oregon.

Berkeley, Cal.—The first official bulletin descriptive of the fossils unearthed by the expedition to the John Day region in eastern Oregon has been published by the geology department at Berkeley. It describes some of the strange monsters that peopled the country known as the "Bad Lands." Among these remarkable beasts are extinct pigs and peccaries as large as cows, camellike quadrupeds and, not least interesting, the famous three-toed horse, The "atotherium," or giant hog, is a monster mammal nearly ten-feet long and six or seven feet high.

Three-fourths of the remains of animals found are of the peculiar bearded beasts named orodons—part deer and part hog. These varied in size from that of a dog to that of a small cow.

Here's the Latest Fish Story.

A retriever-dog belonging to Mr. W. Churchill, of High Wycombe, England, was accompanying his master along the bank of the River Wyck, a tributary of the Thames, when he suddenly dived into the water and emerged with a fine trout in his mouth.

"American" Understood.

A restaurant keeper at Lucerne has made a special concession to American visitors, who are remarkably numerous this year. In his window signs have just been put up reading: "English and French spoken. American also understood."