

RAINS IN AUSTRALIA

Heavy Downpour Causes Rivers of Country to Overflow.

Great Havoc is Wrought and People Are Compelled to Seek Refuge on Roofs and in Trees—One Whole Family Drowned.

Sydney, N. S. W.—The great event of the year thus far in Australia has been the disastrous floods in the northwest of New South Wales caused by a phenomenal rainfall. The various rivers overflowed their banks and poured their contents over the surrounding plains and into adjacent towns. Tamworth was the first to be submerged, then followed Narrabri, Wee Waa, Moree, Warialda and a number of smaller towns. Moree is a thriving town near the Gwydir, 400 miles from Sydney. It is the present terminus of the railway to the northwest and is surrounded by far-reaching plains of porous black soil, rich with luxuriant grass on which browse thousands of sheep.

The mayor of Moree, who happened to live a little distance out of town, was cut off by the flood and had to wade with his family through four feet of water for a corrugated iron roof, where he remained under the sweltering sun for three days till the water subsided. Fortunately he had plenty of provisions in the house, and was lucky enough to catch a drowning sheep, as it drifted past, which was speedily killed and cooked so soon as the stove had sufficiently dried. In this, as in many similar cases, the telephone proved of immense use, enabling the inmates to communicate with the town and to arrange for the sending out of a relief party to rescue a boat load of people, who had capsized in front of the mayor's house and had been forced to remain in the trees all night. In another case a brother and sister were perched on a roof for three days, and a boat was hurriedly constructed in town to take them some food.

Funds were immediately started in Sydney and in different towns for the relief of the sufferers which speedily amounted to thousands of pounds. Almost everybody lost something, many being totally ruined, while several lost their lives. In one case a whole family, including women and children, at Wee Waa, where the flood was at its worst, left their homestead in a boat accompanied by a police constable. The current dashed them against a tree, the boat capsized and the whole party was drowned, excepting only the constable, who is not expected to recover. In another case, which illustrates the wide extent of the country devastated by the flood, a whole boatload was missing for a week, carried high and thither by the current and seeing nothing but water during the whole time.

Since 1864 no other such calamity has occurred in this part of Australia, and those who remember the flood of that year say that this was still worse. The most remarkable feature about it was the promptitude and celerity with which the people everywhere rose to the occasion, relieved the sufferers, repaired the bridges, mended the roads, burned the carcasses, cleaned their houses, restored their communications, and, in fact, did everything that was humanly possible to undo the damage, which could hardly have been foreseen, and little of which could have been prevented in any case.

PURPURAEMORRHAGICA KILLS

English Jury Declares That Rare Malady Accelerated the Death of a Miner.

London.—A case of alleged purpuraemorrhagica—or black blister—was inquired into by the Walsall deputy coroner.

A man named Edward Booker, on arriving home from his work at the Holly Bank Colliery company's Sneyd pit, had a black eye and complained that a "tree" had blown out and hit him. Next day he developed black blisters in the mouth, which extended over his body and caused death.

Dr. Longmore stated that this was a disease called purpuraemorrhagica, which was so obscure that "Coates' Pathology," one of the best known pathological works, did not even mention it; and, further, that it was brought on by the blow.

The jury returned a verdict of death from purpuraemorrhagica, accelerated by injuries received while at work.

\$250,000 Bird House.

Cincinnati.—Mrs. Mary Emery, widow of Thomas J. Emery, has provided a luxurious home for birds in Cincinnati. She has purchased a big country place at Evanston, comprising about 1 1/2 acres, and has turned it over to Associate Professor H. M. Benedict, of the department of biology at the University of Cincinnati. It has been estimated that she will spend about \$250,000 to provide the right kind of a place to house and to study birds.

Millers to Aid Farmers.

Columbus, O.—The millers and farmers of Ohio will co-operate in a movement to bring about an improvement in both the quality and quantity of the wheat output of Ohio. At the meeting of the Ohio Millers' association, it was decided to devote one day of the meeting next fall to a conference with representative farmers of Ohio, with this end in view.

MERE MAN OUTBID BY WOMAN

Los Angeles Widow Wins Yuma Farm From Wyoming Man at Recent Auction Sale.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Outbid by a woman. This was the experience of Edward B. Milner on the plains of Wyoming. In the contest for Yuma farm unit G 33, which was auctioned at the United States land office, Mrs. Mary E. Delo, widow, residing in this city, was the woman who refused to be outdone by a mere man.

The price paid was \$201. The land for which Mrs. Delo and Mr. Milner were bidding was a farm unit which went by default, the successful applicant in the drawing having failed to make the first payment within the ten-day period.

When Receiver Robinson offered this strip of land at auction a contest for the farm was begun. It did not require the perception of a sage to see that the land was wanted by both Mr. Milner and Mrs. Delo.

As quickly as one bid, the price was raised by the other contestant for the farm. Rapidly the price was bid up to \$100, and then increased steadily until it had soared to \$200. At this figure a friend of Milner persuaded him to withdraw from the bidding, and no person seemed willing to raise the price of \$201 bid by Mrs. Delo.

Receiver Robinson declared that Mrs. Delo had purchased the first right to file an entry on farm unit G 33 of the Yuma land project for \$201. In addition to this amount, it will be necessary for Mrs. Delo to pay the regular government price of \$65 an acre.

Defeated in this quarter, but determined to have a Yuma farm, Mr. Milner studied the blue print showing the location of the various units, and selected a section which had been allowed to go by default by the original applicant, and filed an entry on it without paying any money except the regulation price of \$65 an acre.

It was farm unit C 33, and Mrs. Delo and Mr. Milner will be near neighbors.

AUTO TRIPS CAUSE BALDNESS

Woman Must Choose Between Fewer Rides or Less Hair, Says Noted Dermatologist.

Boston.—It is apparent from what Dr. C. J. White, dermatologist at the Massachusetts General hospital, says that women must either cut down the number of auto trips or run the awful chances of becoming bald. The noted authority says motoring is bad for the hair.

"Usually women neglect to properly cover their heads, with the result that they are compelled to take too many shampoos," Doctor White said. "Washing the hair and scalp once a week is often enough for a skin which is normal. A shampoo every other day or so, or even once a week, will produce baldness, and after a person reaches twenty-five or thirty years of age it is impossible to cure abnormal falling out of hair."

The problem is that if women want to go motoring they must completely cover the hair, but that keeps out the air and produces baldness. If they permit the dust to get on the scalp and then submit to the wicked shampoo they will also lose their hair. The only safe way is to reduce the number of auto trips.

ONE LETTER COSTS FORTUNE

Visions of Vast Riches Disappear When New Jersey "Heir" Learns of Mistake.

Burlington, N. J.—William P. Stockley learned the other day that he missed by a mere letter becoming a millionaire. An industrious policeman with a description of a William Stockley, missing for several years from Wilmington, Del., found the local Stockley the other night and told him of his great luck.

Stockley once lived in Delaware and was having visions of a palace and automobiles while the authorities were endeavoring to connect with the executor of the estate from which the missing man will inherit more than \$1,000,000 if found.

The answer from Delaware gave the full name of the missing man as William Brown Stockley. The middle initial of the local William is "P.," which does not stand for Brown, and he is now back on his job convinced that the fates had tricked him.

Soon All You Like.

Cleveland, O.—Chief J. E. Jones of the park police has drafted rules governing spooning in the parks. His rules are simple and were written with a view to making them easy for prospective spooners to learn. "We will permit spooning in the parks," the chief said. "Who am I to blight love's young dream in the springtime?" Here are the rules: "Hugging with one arm is permitted. "Hugging with both arms is permitted. "Kissing in clitches will be allowed. "Only plain kissing will be allowed."

Money in Old Stove.

New York.—After she had sold an old stove the other day for 30 cents Miss Nora Bullivan, aged 70, of Newark, N. J., learned that it was really worth \$600. A package which dropped from the stove, unnoticed by the purchaser, was picked up by two boys and found to contain 60 \$10 gold pieces.

The money was turned over to the police and will probably be returned to Miss Bullivan.

PRIZE IN A JUNGLE

Indiana Scientist Brings Back Strange Fish With Legs.

Dangers of All Kinds Are Braved by Hoosier in a Three-Year Trip Through South American Wilds—Tales of Hardship.

Bloomington, Ind.—In the midst of a mass of 30,000 specimens of fish life, now reposing in the preservative of the Carnegie institute of Pittsburgh, is a specimen of animal life which is totally new to present-day scientists, according to a statement given out here by Dr. John D. Haseman, who has just returned after a three-years' trip through the wilds of South America in search of hitherto unknown forms of fish life.

Reticent in the extreme concerning his discovery, which, it is alleged, is the greatest in zoology since the days of Alexander Humboldt, Dr. Haseman would say only that the new species is about eighteen inches long, is blind and has 96 segments in its body.

Dr. Carl H. Eigenmann, head of Indiana zoological department, says that the specimen is neither a fish nor has it four legs. It is known, however, that the species has rudimentary legs, and closely resembles the American salamander. Only one specimen of the "fish" is in the possession of the institute.

Speaking of his trip across the wilds of the Paraguay river, through the 2,000-mile stretch of the Amazon valley and into the unknown regions of the coastwise rivers of the southern continent, Dr. Haseman tells almost unbelievable stories of hardship and privation, hunger and disease suffered along with his handful of native guides in the pursuit of the various discoveries in the scientific world, which he says he will soon make public. Dr. Haseman was the only white man in the party.

After journeying almost 10,000 miles along the east coast of the continent, from Bahia to Buenos Ayres, making numerous side trips into the valleys of the coastwise rivers, the former Indiana university student started on a 10,000-mile trip through the very heart of the continent. He followed the Paraguay river from its mouth to the source, then made a 400-mile trip, which took 37 days, in order to get around an intervening range of mountains.

This side expedition was made in a bull cart. The explorer then found the source of the Guapola river, traveled 1,500 miles down it to the Madeira river, then into the valley of the Amazon and down the valley of the "King of Rivers" to its outlet, a distance of more than 1,000 miles.

Most of the long journey was in boats, some of it was on foot, through almost impassable jungles, some of the way was negotiated on log rafts, and at times, when the rivers were dry, the native guides had to pull the boats over hidden rocks.

"A close watch had to be kept and barricades built of the boats themselves to keep the Indian along the route from shooting into the party with poisoned arrows.

At times the food supply of the party ran out and they were forced to shoot monkeys for food. At other times a limited supply of dried fish formed the only sustenance of the entire party.

The specimen of the "fish with feet," which is the only one of its sort that scientists have been able to capture, and which is so highly prized that few hints of its true character have leaked out, was captured in the Rio Negro river, near its junction with the Amazon.

Doctor Haseman is the only other scientist besides Johann Natterer, a German naturalist, who undertook a similar expedition in 1825, who has made this South American trip. Natterer's specimens are now in the Vienna museum.

RACES IN "ADOPTED" FAMILY

Russian Doctor in California Adds Yaqui Indian Boy to Collection of Children.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Dr. M. S. Schulz of Long Beach, took legal steps the other day to acquire another member for his "international" family, by making application for permission to adopt Ramond Palamoria, a Yaqui Indian boy eighteen months old.

Doctor Schulz, who is a Russian, has two children of his own. He has adopted a Korean and a mulatto, and is casting about for infants of other races and color to add to his family. He believes that racial differences can be eradicated by providing a proper environment for the children.

The Yaqui boy is the son of an insurgent chief in Sonora, his mother having been captured by Mexican soldiers.

Women's Small Feet.

New York.—The New York woman still holds her proud position at the foot of the feet list. According to one of the biggest shoe dealers in the country, the average size of the foot at Barnard college is smaller than at any other school in the country.

The general run of shoes there are No. 2's, he says, while the University of Missouri co-eds head the list with a 4B. Some of the shoes there run as large as 7B.

SAYS NO CANCER IN FISHES

Dr. Bashford, Noted English Expert, Declares Finny Tribe is Swept Away by Goitre.

London.—Cancer experts on this side think there must be some mistake in Mr. Taft's special message to congress in which he asked for an appropriation of \$50,000 for the investigation of cancer in fishes. Cabled reports make the president say that "close investigation of the subject of cancer in fishes, which are frequently swept away by epidemics of that disease, may give us light upon this dreadful human scourge." Dr. Bashford, director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, says that there must be some misconception here.

"Fishes are swept away by goitre, not by cancer," he says. "The misconception has arisen because cancer sometimes follows upon goitre."

"I do not mean that cancer does not attack fishes, but the subject which has given rise to Mr. Taft's request for another laboratory is that of goitre, upon which aspect of the question the Imperial Cancer Research fund has been engaged for a long time past. As a result of investigations spread over the entire British empire, which began in 1902, it was found that the disease existed throughout the vertebrate scale.

"In particular, it was found that trout which were kept in hatcheries for stock purposes were very liable to a disease of the thyroid gland, very similar to goitre, and this not infrequently went on to the development of cancer. Cancer, as distinct from that which follows upon goitre, has been found in fish from the sea, but never in any frequency which would justify the theory of an epidemic. As a matter of fact, investigators consider it to be established that cancer is not infectious."

SKULL IS 600,000 YEARS OLD

London Museum Curator Tells of Many Characteristics of Race of That Period.

London.—Curator Keith of the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons has deduced some mental and physical characteristics of prehistoric women from a skull found years ago at Gibraltar, which is now in the museum. Professor Keith says he has little doubt that the skull is that of a woman. Judging from the size of the brain she must have been shrewd and probably of considerable spirit. He adds:

"I can reckon pretty accurately the time she lived. It must have been at least 600,000 years ago. From the jaws and the fact that the muscles of mastication were remarkably strong, it is possible to deduce the kind of food she ate. It was probably largely nuts, roots and stuff needing much mastication to extract the nourishment. Hence the unusual development of the jaw muscles.

"People of that date were undoubtedly long armed. Their legs were short and abnormally strong. Their brains were far larger than previously conceded. It seems reasonably certain that they could talk. Examination of the brain cavity shows the cells controlling speech were there. The skull indicates that the woman had a large nose. Her eyes must have been prominent. The palate was one-third larger than that of the woman of today."

MENDS A BOY'S BROKEN BACK

Physicians Entertain Hope for Recovery of Youth Injured While Diving.

Providence, R. I.—One of the most delicate surgical operations ever performed in this city took place the other day when Harlan Ness, the seventeen-year-old son of John Ness, a manufacturer of Ware, Mass., was operated on for fracture of the spine.

While diving at Buttonwood, R. I., last Friday, the boy dived into shallow water and struck on his head, breaking the spinal column between the third and fourth vertebrae.

The operation was performed at his father's summer residence by Dr. Thomas F. Black, assisted by Drs. Eugene Kingman, William McDonald, Jr., and S. H. Long. The most critical part of the operation was that of stitching the bones together by wire.

After the boy recovered from the ether, Dr. Black said that he entertained hopes for the lad's recovery.

Our Foreign Trade Booming.

Washington.—Foreign trade of the United States is booming. Going and coming large increases are apparent in a summary of the export and import trade for March alone and the nine months ended with March, just compiled by the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor. Imports of raw materials have grown largely and the exports of manufactures from these same raw materials has also increased.

There were more than a billion dollars' worth of imports during the nine months ended with March.

Finds \$1,800—Cigar Reward.

Boston.—Joseph F. McInnis, driver for an ice concern, was the victim of two severe shocks, and is wondering how he managed to survive the second one.

The first shock came to him early in the day, when he found a wallet containing \$1,800.

The second shock followed a few minutes later, when the owner of the wallet turned up, received his \$1,800, and as a reward gave McInnis a good five-cent cigar.

SEARCH FOR GERMS

Series of Experiments Made With Milk as Typhoid Generator.

Microbes Found to Exist in Fluid Kept Forty Days, According to Report of Agent of Department of Agriculture.

Washington.—In view of the fact that much of the typhoid fever in Washington has been traced to milk infection, the department of agriculture has made a series of experiments to determine how long typhoid germs will remain alive in milk and butter under ordinary market conditions. The result is to show that the germs will remain active in milk much longer than milk is ever kept before being consumed—namely, forty days—and that in the case of butter the germs have been found active and ready for business at the end of 151 days. This has led to an urgent recommendation by the department for all handlers of dairy products to sterilize milk before it is either sold as milk or made into butter.

The series of experiments was carried on by Henry J. Washburn of the pathological division. He says the investigations of the marine hospital service in connection with typhoid in Washington showed that for three years there was an average of 10 per cent of the cases directly traceable to milk infection. Considering the fact, he says, that typhoid is a disease that is present throughout the country all the time and everywhere, this 10 per cent of infection represents an immense amount of preventable sickness. He thinks that 15 per cent would not be an excessive rating as the proportion of typhoid due to dairy infection.

The department tried one experiment to see whether pure milk from cows ever carried typhoid. For this test a preparation of active typhoid germs was fed to a cow and her milk was tested. It was found, however, that the stomach of the cow seemed to throw off the infection and nothing harmful was found in the milk. It is stated that milk is an excellent medium for breeding typhoid germs if any get into the milk from outside.

Tests were made at the laboratory, and it was found that clean milk infected with a healthy colony of germs was swarming with them in a few hours. There are so many ways in which milk can easily get infected with typhoid that it was thought worth while to see how long the infection lasted after it was once established.

For this purpose some milk was intentionally infected with typhoid germs and was then churned into butter, the buttermilk strained off, the butter salted and packed as though for commercial storage. This butter was kept in tight jars in an ice chest at the laboratory and was tested every day. A plate was made of a little butter and microscopically examined for typhoid. The germs proved to be active from the first day.

As the test progressed, there would come days when the microscope would show no germs, but that was because the needle on which the butter was collected had passed through some part of the butter that was not infected before it was packed down. A similar test was sure to produce germs the next day.

This series of tests was continued for 151 days, and the one-hundred-and-fifty-first day was the last on which active germs were found. The tests were continued for eight days after that, but it was plain that the infection had died out.

The tests with the milk were made in the same general way. Milk was purposely infected and was then kept in a cool place and tested daily. It was found that the germs survived for forty days, and this was much longer than milk ever would be kept.

No tests were made with cheese, but enough was shown to convince the department that dairy products as a whole are a potent source of infection, and that it is essential to sterilize all milk as a matter of public safety.

WIFE MAY USE ROLLING PIN

Chicago Judge Declares Woman Has Perfect Right to Use It on Her Husband.

Chicago.—The using of the rolling pin is one of the inalienable rights of a woman, according to a decision handed down by Judge Newcomer in the municipal court the other day. The decision was made in a case brought by Mrs. Anna Viltteng, charging Viltteng with desertion. Viltteng said that his wife had beaten him with a rolling pin and he had left home. The judge declared Mrs. Viltteng had a right to use the rolling pin, and continued the case to give the couple an opportunity to effect a reconciliation.

Invasion of Teddy Bugs.

Plainfield, Conn.—Millions of "Teddy bugs" cover apple and pear trees and vegetable gardens here and in the surrounding country. The hum of their wings brought out the population, but all but the hardiest were driven indoors immediately. Women and children were forced to flee. Laniens were darkened within a twinkling of the eye by the insects, which are of a kind never before seen about here, though resembling June bugs. Specimens were sent to Yale for classification.

GERMAN DRESS IS CRITICIZED

Reputation for Simplicity Compared Unfavorably With Other Nations—Faith in Silk.

Berlin.—The reputation of the German woman for simplicity of living and dressing has caused her to be compared unfavorably with her sisters of Paris, New York and London. There is general agreement that she has deserved her reputation, but there is no less general agreement that of late years she has changed her standard of dress and has become more ambitious.

A critic who has recently been studying dress in Berlin still finds much to be dissatisfied with. The progress is not inclusive enough. Women in the upper classes have vastly improved in their knowledge of dress and the application of their knowledge with elegance and taste.

Actresses are now costumed in a way that makes the German street scene far more attractive and pleasing than it was a dozen years ago. But there is an enormous number of women who recognize taste and elegance when they see such qualities in feminine costumes, but from motives of tradition and economy, chiefly the latter, steadily refuse to change their fashion of attire.

These women, in age from forty to sixty, usually pin their faith to silk, and the older the silk is the better. It is this clinging to tradition that gives so many theater audiences in Germany their look of commonplaceness, not to say untidiness. This class of German woman, the critic says, is almost equally criminal in her attitude toward the crown of a woman's getup, the hat.

FAMILY CAT CATCHES MUMPS

Animal Now at Large and Health Authorities Fear Epidemic Among Tables of City.

Norwood, Pa.—Mumps have become such an epidemic in this borough that the authorities are trying to locate a family pet in the shape of a large cat, with wide stripes around its body, the pet of a family where the mumps had prevailed, and the recipient of the milk and toast that the patient would not eat. The result is that the cat has the mumps, and is now running at large.

For several days the board of health inspector has tried hard to catch that cat. He said he did get a look at him, and he was the greatest sight a man ever saw—a cat with a couple of good-sized hickory nuts, one on each of its jaws, and sitting on a fence, emitting unearthly screeches. He tried to move toward him slowly and carefully, but the cat saw him, and was off like a streak.

One of the leading physicians in the borough said that such a thing was possible as a cat having the mumps, although it might not be known as that, and there was danger of other domestic pets catching the disease. The inspector says he is going to keep on the job until that cat is in his net, and in the meantime he suggests to pet owners that they keep their animals at home.

WHOLE SHIP CARGO WEIGHED

Porphyrometer Registers as Passenger Comes Aboard or Leaves—Detects Leaks.

London.—An ingenious little instrument which weighs the whole cargo of a ship at one operation and records the change in the vessel's weight when a passenger steps on or off, has been tested on a 300 ton barge off the Temple pier, London. Its name is the porphyrometer. The instrument is based on the infallible principle that a body floating in a liquid of whatever density displaces a quantity of that liquid exactly equal to its own weight, and by its application a vessel is transformed into a gigantic weigh-bridge, or weighing machine. The porphyrometer will be of immense value in minimizing the danger from leaks on vessels, for attached to the instrument is an electric bell which gives warning should a leak occur.

THIS DOG CAN COUNT HOURS

Acts as Alarm Clock for Early-Rising New Jersey Farmer—Wants His Breakfast.

Beverly, N. J.—Promptly at 4:00 o'clock every morning John Paesner, a farmer, arises and begins his day's work. He does not bother about alarm clocks any more, for he places more reliance in his bound dog Spot, who sleeps outdoors and who a few minutes before 4:30 begins an unearthly howl.

Paesner knows from experience it is useless to try to prolong his sleep, for the dog's yelps will not cease until his master comes down to him.

Paesner gives a simple explanation of how the dog became such a reliable alarm. When he used the clock the first thing he would do after getting up would be to see if Spot was all right and throw him a piece of meat. The dog now looks for his breakfast at that hour, and for three months has not varied five minutes in time.

Sea Lions Visit Galveston

Galveston, Tex.—A school of sea lions have been reported in Galveston ship channel between the government jetties by Captain Pronger of the United States dredge Galveston. There is no record of these animals having been seen in these waters until now.