

SINGING INSECTS.

Sweet Little Pets That Make Strange Music in Many Japanese Homes.

Singing birds are prized in all countries, but it is only in Japan that the notes of insects have been appreciated and the insects named according to their different voices.

In three days the next en-nichi of Mita came round—May 24, and Ryo, the priest's daughter, accompanied by a servant, and myself wended our way with a lantern to the night fair at Mita.

There were so many eager purchasers crowding round that little stall that I gave up the idea of buying the insect I wanted that evening.

There are various things used as floats in fishing, from the pretty little painted floats of cork up to good sized logs, these last being used in jigging for catfish in western rivers.

There are many legends connected with these deep spots in the Hudson, and stories of the most improbable nature are frequently told by the old boatmen who ferry passengers across from West Point to Cold Spring.

Amateur Photographer (touring in the western states)—Pardon me, sir, but would you object to my taking your daughter just as she is?

Farmer Green—Well, this is sudden; but take her and be happy. Keep your eyes on him, Sal, till I scoot round for th' parson.—Tit-Bits.

STORY OF A MALARIA GERM.

What the Germ Has to Contend with in the Human System—Told by One of Them.

Theodore Waters has edited the life story of a malaria germ. Here is the germ's description of a fight with the phagocytes.

"What, said I, 'a red cell? We have just come from one!'"

"How does it affect you?" I asked. "If you swallow it, it numbs you—makes you incapable of motion—stupifies and prevents you from climbing into a red blood cell—it is living death, and the friend of the phagocytes!"

"Good-by, brother!" he said. "Here is where I stop. I've work to do. Hope you'll get out of the wet before our white friends catch you. Look out for the quinine streaks."—Ainslee's.

IN THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

Some Singular Things That Were Noted There by an Occasional Theater-Goer.

An occasional theatergoer who occupied a seat in the family circle theater found there plenty of people of evident refinement and politeness, and the whole atmosphere one of calmness and good manners.

It seemed to the occasional theatergoer that most of the people in the family circle were regular theatergoers; perhaps that accounts for their reading between the acts, when an occasional theatergoer would have found things of interest for him in the theater itself, and in the audience.

But what struck the visitor most of all in the family circle was that the women, almost if not quite without exception, removed their hats. It may be that this is really more essential to the common comfort here than it would be in any other part of the theater; owing to the pitch of the floor upon which the seats are placed, with relation to the line of vision to the stage, or something of that sort; but the fact remains that here in the family circle of the theater in the year 1900 the women all sat with their hats off.—N. Y. Sun.

Sudden. Amateur Photographer (touring in the western states)—Pardon me, sir, but would you object to my taking your daughter just as she is?

Farmer Green—Well, this is sudden; but take her and be happy. Keep your eyes on him, Sal, till I scoot round for th' parson.—Tit-Bits.

In the Klondike. Mrs. Nugget—What a fine piece of cloth! How much did you pay for that?

Mrs. Mines—Only \$93.99 a yard. I call that a bargain, don't you?—Puck.

THE TUGELA RIVER.

Picturesque and Magnificent Surroundings of the Longest Stream in Natal.

The Modder and Tugela rivers are at the present moment perhaps the most conspicuous streams in South Africa. The Tugela, or "Startling," river is the longest river in Natal, being over 200 miles long, attaining a breadth at its mouth of 450 feet.

It rises on the Free State side of Montaux Sources, in the Drakensburg mountains, the extreme western point in Natal, and at once leaps down into the colony with a fall, broken by one or two ledges, of 1,800 feet—the highest waterfall in the world. It then tears through a canyon over two miles long, joined here and there by many a foaming stream from knif to hillside, and cuts the colony in two, separating Klip River country from Weenen country.

The Blauwkrans river next joins it on the south bank, and a few miles nearer the mouth the Tugela is augmented by the Bushman river, on which Eastcourt stands. Ten miles lower down, but on the north side of the "Startling river," the Sunday's river comes tearing in from its distant sources in the Biggarsberg, past Elandsagte. This latter river receives the Inkunzi and Waschbank streams, which traverse the southern districts of Natal's coal fields.

Just before the Tugela reaches the Zulu border the Mool (good) river runs in from the south. At the Zulu border the Tugela receives its largest tributary, the Buffalo or Umziyati river, which from its source near Charlestown flows southeast, forming Natal's eastern boundary between her territory, the Transvaal and Zululand.

Near Dundee are Landman's and Commando drifts, across the Buffalo, and lower down come Korke's and Fugitive drifts, at the latter of which Lieut. Melville was killed, with his regiment's colors wrapped round him, in the Zulu war of 1879. On the Buffalo bank, overlooking the drift, there is a monument to his memory. The Buffalo is joined between Amajuba and Newcastle by the historic Ingogo river, where over 150 of our men were lost by flight and flooded stream in the first Boer rebellion.

The scenery throughout the whole length of the Tugela is picturesque, and at places wild and magnificent. High cliffs, lofty hills, deep ravines and wooded kloofs mark its progress to the sea. Like all Natal rivers (save the first few miles of the Umziyati in the extreme south), the Tugela is not navigable, and a bar of sand stretches across its mouth.—Pall Mall Gazette.

DEEP SPOTS IN THE HUDSON.

In One Place Near West Point a Fifty-Fathom Line Failed to Touch Bottom.

There are a number of deep places in the Hudson, as everyone is aware, but few know that spots ranging from a depth of 80 to 24 fathoms are frequently met with south of the Highlands. The deepest spot in the river is just north of West Point, where a 50-fathom line failed to touch bottom. It is in the narrowest part of the river, where, during the revolution, a chain was placed as an obstruction to British men-of-war. Recently it was suggested by Gen. John M. Wilson, chief of engineers, that the enormous quantity of stone taken from Dyckman's cut could be dumped into one of those big holes.

A few years ago, when one of the Hudson river steamers was wrecked south of Cornwall and afterward drifted to the north dock, which is a little east of this bottomless hole, a diver was sent down to examine the boat. He barely escaped with his life. The boat rested on what appeared to be a ledge of rock. The diver stepped off this ledge and began to sink rapidly. The men on the surface felt the tugging at the ropes, and, knowing that something was wrong, pulled him to the surface. When he told them of the bottomless pit that nearly swallowed him the men all laughed, but the diver got out of his apparatus and refused to go down again.

From Haverstraw to Sing Sing the depth of the river is not more than seven fathoms, but off Fort Montgomery, where another chain was stretched during the revolution, it is 13 fathoms. There is a hole off Fort Washington Point which shows a depth of 24 fathoms. At the base of Crow's Nest is a stretch of water 30 fathoms deep. Here many soldiers have been drowned while bathing. Just south of this is a spot the bottom of which no man knoweth. It is called the World's End. How it got the name is a mystery. The oldest inhabitants knew of the dangerous spot and called it by that name.

At Blue Point, a few miles above Newburg, there is another deep spot, where scores of skaters have lost their lives. It is a curious fact that over these deep holes only the thinnest ice forms, and most of those who go under could have avoided the localities had they only been acquainted with their dangerous character.

There are many legends connected with these deep spots in the Hudson, and stories of the most improbable nature are frequently told by the old boatmen who ferry passengers across from West Point to Cold Spring.—N. Y. Times.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Switzerland has three institutions for the cure of drunks which record permanent cures in one-half the cases treated.

They have artificial oysters in Paris. They are fastened into real shells, with tasteless paste, and it is said connoisseurs are deceived by them.

Paper shingles are used in Japan, and they are found to be as serviceable as the wooden ones, and only cost half as much. They are simply thickly tarred pasteboard.

The population of British Guiana is heterogeneous, including 114,485 East Indians, 11,614 Portuguese, 4,392 other Europeans, 2,980 Chinese, and 6,815 aborigines, the remaining 145,000 being composed of colored or mixed races.

The Aruntas, a tribe of aborigines in Central Australia, have a curious custom. After the death of a husband the widow paints herself from head to heels with a white pigment, and for a year she is not allowed to be seen by a male member of the tribe, on pain of death.

The present population of the province of Tumbes, Peru, is 5,000 souls, in sad contrast with its former prosperity, when 100 miles of canal on either bank of that river furnished occupation to 80,000 agriculturists alone. Vestiges of roads and aqueducts are found throughout the country.

The Malay states of Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Selangor and Sungai-Ujong have joined a federation and the postage stamps of any of these states are now valid for postage in all of the five principalities. It is likely that, after the present stock has all been used, there will be but one series of postage stamps, which will much simplify matters in the straits settlements.

PARIS FORTUNE TELLERS.

Blackmailing Is One of the Tricks of the Trade in the French Capital.

Few people would suspect what an extraordinary number of fortune tellers drive a thriving trade in Paris. One of the principal functionaries at the prefecture of police informed me recently that his department had the names and addresses of over 2,000 persons who make their living, and in many cases an excellent living, by the most elementary and common of all the forms of the pseudo-science of divination, by telling fortunes from cards. There are other varieties of fortune tellers galore; those who predict the future from a handful of pins thrown at hazard on a sort of chess board, or from the stripes assumed by the dregs of coffee in the bottom of a saucer, those who resort to mesmerism and somnambulism, the chiropodists, the drawers of horoscopes, and many others.

The cartomancists, however, are in the majority. The methods of all of them are identical, but their prices vary greatly. Their stock-in-trade, apart from some little imagination, considerable cunning and unlimited impudence, consists solely of the tarot, a specially prepared pack of cards, as a rule clumsily hand-painted and pasted on to squares of cardboard. The cost of consulting the tarot ranges from a few shillings, eagerly paid by innumerable servant girls and minor demimondaines, to five pounds and even seven pounds. The fortune teller who can command these latter prices deals with society ladies, but the most assiduous clients of all are actresses, who, with scarcely an exception, believe in the talents of the cartomancists, and many of whom go week after week to the same wise woman and swallow with incomprehensible docility the contradictory revelations elaborated for their benefit. The cheaper fortune tellers are seldom or never consulted by men, but, curiously enough, the cartomancists, whose charges are high, often have men among their customers. There is one well-known speculator on the Paris bourse who never ventures his money unless the tarot has assured him of the likelihood of his being successful; and it must be admitted that his confidence in the cards has, so far, not betrayed him, for he is exceedingly rich.

The police have made desperate efforts on various occasions to put a stop to this form of swindling, but they have had practically to abandon the enterprise as hopeless. The Parisienne can no more dispense with her fortune teller than with her dressmaker or milliner. However, not a few members of the soothingly corporations ultimately get into trouble with the police by declining to be content with what must be called the "legitimate" profits of their profession. Owing to the hold they obtain over their victims, and especially, they are tempted infrequently to launch out into blackmailing and other disreputable transactions, which land them not infrequently in the criminal dock. Indeed, an account of what goes on in connection with these fortune telling dens would make a very curious chapter in a description of the seamy side of Parisian life.—Pall Mall Gazette.

When a Man Speaks First. "I suppose we ought to have the house painted this spring," said Mr. Greenough.

"Have you enough money put by to have it done?" his wife asked. "Yes," he said, pleased at the interest she took in the matter. "I've been laying away a little every month for it, and when I counted up, the other night, I found that the fund amounted to something like \$250."

"Oh, George," she exclaimed, "that will be just enough to buy a lovely diamond I was looking at yesterday. Diamonds are going up on account of the war in Africa. Paint her!"

Then he began wondering why man was ever blessed with the gift of speech anyway.—Chicago Times-Herald.

WILL BE EXCLUSIVE.

Turkish Minister Brings His Wife to This Country.

Special Privilege Granted by Sultan on Condition That Family Should Adhere Strictly to Rules of the Koran.

All Ferrouh Bey, the Turkish minister, has arrived in Washington after a leave of absence of more than six months. As a special favor from his imperial majesty, the sultan, All Ferrouh has been permitted to bring his wife with him. She is the daughter of a distinguished line of Moslem warriors. Her father is Hussein Bey. He gained the permission of his sovereign to bring his wife to this country upon condition the family should adhere strictly to the rules of the Koran.

All Ferrouh Bey is also accompanied by his sister and Mme. Hanim, who will be companion to his wife. Hussein Bey, a brother of his wife, also accompanies the party as a student. He will pursue his studies under the guidance of the savants at the Smithsonian, and it is his intention to take an American degree in letters. All Ferrouh Bey said:

"You are interested in my wife? Well, my wife is 24 years of age, and I consider her a beautiful woman. I cannot give you a photograph, because she has never had one taken. She will lead exactly the same life as any other Moslem lady of her rank, and will attend the same devotions as if she were at Constantinople. She and I both gave this promise before my imperial master, the sultan, would give his permission that she should accompany me here.

"She will be able to receive women visitors, and I hope it may be possible that she may pay her respects to Mrs. McKinley. She cannot, of course, receive calls from gentlemen, no matter how high their standing, but she will be at home every Friday.

When she pays her respects to the president's wife it will be necessary that the gentlemen of the executive household should not be present."

THE FOSSIL FORESTS.

Effort to Be Made to Preserve Petrified Trees in Arizona by the Setting Apart of National Park.

W. A. Richards, assistant commissioner of the general land office, in speaking of the fossil forests of Arizona, says: "The report of Lester F. Ward on his recent visit to the petrified forests was the result of a request from the general land office for a report as to the desirability of reserving the most interesting portions as a national park, a memorial to congress to that effect having passed the legislature in 1895. A large amount of the material is now being worked up in this country into articles to be sold at the coming Paris exposition."

The petrified forests are in Apache county, east of Holbrook, and while the trunks were found over a considerable tract, the best portion of the forest is embraced in an area about eight miles square.

In some portions of this petrified log forest lie much more thickly than they could have stood when living. They were brought thither by strong and swift currents and rapidly buried in the sand. The trees are completely silicified, and so well preserved the microscopic structure can be clearly made out, showing to what families they belong. Owing to the visits of tourists the more beautiful specimens are steadily being carried away and destroyed, while many carloads have been removed to be cut, polished and made into ornaments.

YALE SOPHOMORE SOCIETIES.

Seniors Petition University Council to Abolish Them in Interest of Democratic Spirit.

Practically the whole senior class at Yale has signed a strong petition to the university council asking that the sophomore secret societies be abolished. The petitioners, who number nearly all the men in the class not affiliated with Eta Phi, Eta Beta, or Kappa Psi, recite the assertion now often heard that Yale democracy is at stake by reason of the pernicious influence of the three sophomore societies, which run all the way through the course. The petition has caused tremendous commotion on the Yale campus. The petitioners say they feel the need of a change is becoming more and more urgent, and because they are unwilling to leave college without an effort to make a beneficial change, as members of the senior class they feel themselves forced as an expression of loyalty to Yale to go on record as thoroughly opposed to the existence of the societies in question. It is felt at Yale that if the school is to remain the great national university democracy must be fostered in the social system.

Working Boer Sentiment. Proprietors of New York saloons frequented by pro-Boers decorate their show windows with fancy baskets filled with bottled liquors, the labels decorated with ribbons of the Boer colors—red, white, blue and green. It is said to be a clever way to attract the trade of both Irish and German sympathizers with the Boers in their fight against England.

Swedes Tallest of Europeans. The Swedes are probably the tallest people in Europe, and have, on the whole, erect, handsome figures. To some extent this advantage is due to physical exercise, for Ling's Swedish gymnastics are compulsory in the elementary schools, and much used in other schools and colleges.

DEPEW'S FAVORITE PET.

His Admiration for a Fine Angora Cat Causes a Stir in Society, and Fair Maidens Are Envious.

Fond mothers with fair daughters have wondered why it was that Senator Depew seemed impervious to the attractions of all charmers. At last the mystery is solved. He has set his affections on a cat. The object of the senator's regard is no ordinary animal, but is a magnificent creature of the Angora species, Taffy by name.

This pet is just the color of rich New Orleans molasses with the sunlight striking it, while about the head the color reminds one of the old dose of sulphur and molasses so often administered by fond parents. Taffy has a dash of white. The first one to greet the senator when he arises in the morning is his pet, who comes and coaxes for a caress, perches herself on his shoulder, and demonstrates all the fondness of the feline with her soft, insinuating ways.

When the senator dines Taffy sits nearer and begs for dainty morsels, which are supplied from the statesman's own plate. She is especially fond of a grape, and when one is tossed to her continues to roll it around the floor and chase it all during the meal. When her master has broken his egg at breakfast she coaxes for the shell and has a great frolic with it.

Taffy is playful and has a wonderful number of pretty tricks. She meets the senator each night when he returns from his duties at the capitol, greets him with a show of affection, and rolls about in delight at the return of her master. She was purchased as a gift by the senator's niece, Miss Paulding, about a year ago, and has scarcely outgrown the stages of kittenhood. When her master is receiving callers Taffy places herself on a rug in the drawing-room and signifies her approval or disapproval of all callers. It is safe to state that Taffy's likes or dislikes have some weight with the senator. Designing fair ones have plotted the abduction of Taffy, hoping that by her return they might find favor with her owner. Others who have found out this weakness of the great orator are bargaining for rare and costly specimens of the feline tribe, and ere long this roomy residence will be inhabited by countless cats with a great variety of musical powers.

A SAD ARMY ROMANCE.

Lieut. Harry Sisson Killed by a Bullet Which First Pierced His Sweetheart's Picture.

The body of Lieut. Harry Sisson arrived at St. Edward, Neb., the other day from the Philippines. One of the most pathetic romances incident to the war in the east was disclosed by the killing of the young Nebraska officer.

When he enlisted, his sweetheart, Miss Anna Taylor, hung around his neck a scarlet ribbon from which dangled a photograph of herself. He promised to wear it next his heart, and the girl laughingly remarked that if he was killed she hoped the bullet would first pierce her picture. Among the first to fall near the rice fields around Manila was Lieut. Sisson.

When picked up it was found that a bullet had gone through his heart, striking first the very center of the likeness his sweetheart had placed in his bosom. The weeping girl placed the remains of her lover at the depot. The Manila embalmers carefully replaced the picture of the Nebraska girl over the heart of the corpse, and thus it arrived. Miss Taylor had it buried with him.

TORPEDO BOAT TEST.

While Tied Alongside of Sea Wall at Brooklyn Navy Yard Her Propeller Is Run at Full Speed.

Beside the sea wall at the Brooklyn navy yard there was an interesting test of the torpedo boat Somers. She was fastened along the sea wall by 15 stout hawsers to prevent her running away, while her propeller was run at full speed, and she was tied to capstans and held by other stout shore supports. While her boilers were worked to their capacity the torpedo boat tugged vigorously at the cables, the propeller making 250 revolutions a minute. It is believed by the officers in charge of the Somers that she will make at least 20 and possibly 23 knots an hour. In charge of the Somers is a crew from the torpedo boat Dupont, and they will continue the tests till the experts arrive. The final test will probably be given in the lower bay, and if she proves satisfactory she will be supplied with a torpedo tube and guns, ready to be placed in commission in the spring.

SORRY HE WROTE IT.

Thomas Dunn English Blasted with His Son, "Ben Bolt," Which Has Been So Popular.

Thomas Dunn English is sorry he ever wrote "Ben Bolt." He says: "I never could comprehend why 'Ben Bolt' had so many waves of popularity, unless it was because of the sentiment in the first stanza, which was better than the rest. As printed in 1843 the words were full of typographical errors, as I didn't see the proof. Thus 'blushed' was changed to 'wept,' the word 'alive' was omitted from the line, 'There are only you and I.' Twelve months and many were changed to 'Twelve months' the stanza devoted to Appleton's mill were mutilated by an omission. I thought so little of the lines themselves—and my opinion of the matter is not changed—that I made but little revision when they were afterward reprinted. I heartily wish that I had never written the words at all."