

TRUTH ABOUT SNAKE

Its Poison Not Deadly of Itself, Says Noted Scientist.

All That Whisky Does in Case of Bite Is to Act as a Stimulant Against Frigate—Popular Methods of Treatment Wrong.

Philadelphia—Declaring that there is no absolute antidote thus far discovered for the bite of a rattlesnake and upstating many of the popular superstitions regarding the American reptile, Dr. John Marshall, professor of chemistry and toxicology of the University of Pennsylvania, spoke before a group of physicians.

The lecture was the result of observations obtained by Dr. Marshall in five years of research.

"There is no antidote for the bite of a rattlesnake," declared Dr. Marshall. "The popular methods of treatment are all wrong and do no good."

"A very small percentage of adults die from rattlesnake bites. That is because the snake cannot inject sufficient poison to cause death. But most persons when bitten become badly frightened, and the whisky may act as a stimulant and thus keep the victim from dying of fright. But where the poison is sufficient to cause death the whisky cannot retard its work."

"Another popular cure for a snake bite, the application of permanganate of potash, does no good. It is true that it will decompose the venom in the immediate vicinity of the wound, but it does not follow the poison into the circulation. If it did it would cause death itself, because it will decompose the blood as well as snake poison."

"Caustic is used in many cases, or the wound is seared with a red hot iron. The only result obtained is the infliction of a terrible wound, while the progress of the poison is not stayed."

"There is a blood serum which is successful when used. It is obtained in the usual way. A horse is inoculated with the venom and the serum obtained from its blood. This serum will check the poison if used, but what man carries with him into the haunts of the rattlesnake a quantity of serum and an aseptic hypodermic syringe for its use?"

"The treatment which is the nearest to nature is the one that is most efficacious. Cut open the wound caused by the fangs and then suck it until all of the poison is extracted. If some of the poison gets into the stomach it will do no harm, as the human digestive system is able to dispose of the venom. The only danger resulting from this method would arise if there should be an abrasion or cut on the lip or in the mouth, for then inoculation would occur."

"The poison acts directly upon the blood. It destroys the covering of the blood corpuscles, thus rendering them incapable of carrying oxygen in sufficient quantities to sustain life. The victim as a result dies of asphyxiation."

CHILDREN STAR IN A FLAT.

Parents to Get Rent Free with New Offspring, Each Boy Being Receptacle for Two Months.

St. Louis, Mo.—The first apartment house in the United States where tenants without children will not be accepted will be erected in St. Louis in the most exclusive part of town, adjacent to two apartments where families with children are housed. The new apartment will cost \$400,000.

There will be no limit to the number of children in any family. Every girl born in the structure will carry a month's rent free for the parents, and to the couple with a boy two months' rent receipts will be given. The babies will be remembered with a year's privilege of the nursery, in care of trained nurses.

Each suite will be fitted with a playroom, and there will be a general playroom in the basement in charge of instructors to teach the coming generation physical culture. A dancing room with instructors will be operated free for children.

A local real estate dealer conceived the plan and organized the syndicate, which is backing the enterprise.

Lack of Farm Hands.

Washington, D. C.—"Lack of farm hands, a problem which the American farmer now faces, is the chief cause of the high price of foodstuffs," said Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson. "All through the west and northwest the same situation exists," he said. "The country is as healthy and prosperous as ever it was, but thousands of acres of valuable and fertile land are lying idle because the owners cannot hire labor, although wages paid farm hands in these states are the equal of those paid to the laborers in our large cities."

Cure for Deadly Sleep.

New York.—The John D. Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research believes it has discovered an absolute cure for African sleeping sickness.

The claim is made that the serum is as pronounced a specific for the African disease as salvarsan for syphilis. The powder is a light brown. It is dissolved in 10 to 12 parts of water and hypodermically administered. The patient begins to show improvement in a few hours and is completely restored within three days.

The statement was made reluctantly by one of the Rockefeller scientists.

STRAW ITCH RIDDLE SOLVED.

Indiana Woman Discovers That It Was Caused by an Insect in the Wheat.

Indianapolis, Ind.—They have been having a brand-new ailment in Fayette county, dubbed "straw itch," and only recently correctly diagnosed. It has flouted theretofore last wheat harvest, taking the form of "rash," or "shingles," and accompanied with an itching sensation well-nigh intolerable. Whether or not it was contagious nobody stopped to investigate. They were too busy. It was known that under certain conditions it appeared, but just the particular conditions under which it flourished were not apparent.

A good housewife in Connersville has finally solved the riddle. Since the last wheat harvest, when people filled their ticks with fresh straw, they have been sleeping over millions of little pests which, under a magnifying glass, take the form of diminutive flies. Last summer a new pest was known to have attacked the growing wheat. Eggs which they laid were afterward hatched, especially in ticks where straw had been placed, and which were warmed by the sleeping forms of human beings.

Men engaged in bailing straw also encountered a "breaking out," and persons who carried straw to be used on a roadway over which gravel teams could pass in making a "fill" found their necks, breasts and arms covered with small eruptions. They scratched and speculated and speculated and speculated, but failed to realize the cause.

The other day this observant Connersville woman, while emptying her ticks, discovered the presence of myriads of these little insects, so small they could readily penetrate the meshes of ordinary fabric. The ticks were boiled in healthy hot water, and the torment from which the family had suffered for months was at an end. The neighbors profited by the experience, and the little insects responsible for "straw itch" are now no more in Fayette county.

They have had their day and generation, and no longer will individuals who treasured upon their camping grounds while seeking rest be subjected to unpleasant sensations.

OLD WOODEN BRIDGE BURNED

Landmark on Hudson River Destroyed by Fire—Millions Had Passed Over It.

Troy, N. Y.—The famous old wooden covered bridge across the Hudson river, between the upper sections of this city and Waterford, was destroyed by fire the other day. This bridge, which was perhaps the oldest bridge of the kind in the United States, was one of the landmarks and curiosities in this section. It was first opened for traffic in 1803 and has been in constant service ever since.

The fire, supposed to have started from an electric wire, was most spectacular. As the flames ate their way through the massive woodwork, the superstructure of the bridge weakened and collapsed and fell into the Hudson. Seven firemen went down with it and all narrowly escaped drowning. One was severely injured. The loss is about \$100,000.

The bridge was probably the only old-fashioned wooden covered bridge of any size left in this country. It was privately owned and the toll which has been collected for passing over it runs well into the millions of dollars.

LESS SHIPS THAN YEAR AGO.

Decrease Shown in Shipbuilding Industry—Material Increase Is Premised.

Washington, D. C.—The smallest output of the American shipbuilding industry since 1896 is shown in the figures gathered by the bureau during the fiscal year just ended. Shipbuilding contracts, however, indicate a material increase during the year ending June 30 next.

There were 1,923 merchant vessels of 231,316 gross tons built in the United States last year, compared with 1,506 of 533,537 gross tons during the fiscal year 1938, which was the record year of American shipbuilding.

On the great lakes 86 steel steamers of 35,426 tons were built, including the Shenago of 2,947 tons, the largest vessel ever built on the lakes, and the Edward B. Winslow of Bath, Me., the largest wooden schooner ever built.

No vessels for foreign trade and no square rigged vessels were built. Of the year's output 90,933 tons were barges and canal boats.

Heist Baby to Ship. New York.—When Mrs. John Gunderson of Brooklyn had her three-month-old baby reached a Mohawk pier the steamer on which they had booked passage for Norway was headed for the ocean. Mrs. Gunderson insisted that she had to get aboard, so she and her baby were placed on a tug and taken to the liner. The baby was put in a sling and hoisted on board, while Mrs. Gunderson climbed a rope ladder to the deck.

Shot for Biting Bee's Finger. Bartlettville, Ohio.—Narrison Day, 20 years old, the other night perhaps fatally wounded his father, James Day.

The older Day had bitten off a joint of one of his son's fingers during a quarrel. The latter rushed to a neighbor's, borrowed a shotgun and shot his father.

ODD ARCTIC PEOPLE

They Are Not the Black Haired Eskimos.

Hint That Mystery of Sir John Franklin's Missing Men, or of Vanished Icelandic Colony May Soon Be Solved.

Pleasantville, N. Y.—A letter from Stefansson, the explorer, received by a friend who lives here, hints at a possible unraveling either of the mystery which for more than 60 years has enveloped the fate of Sir John Franklin's two ships' companies or of the greater mystery concerning colonies of Icelanders who long ago migrated to Greenland and then disappeared.

Stefansson's letter, dated "Barrow, Alaska, Feb. 12," and postmarked "Nome, Alaska, April 5," in transit, says:

"Here I am, further west than you probably expected me to go in winter. This is a whaling station, the most northerly one in America, the most easterly one of those whose egress is by the Pacific ocean. There is here also the most northerly post office under American control and it has two outgoing reindeer mails in winter, November 1 and February 15, as well as a ship mail in July or August. I am here to write letters and reports to the museum.

"My winter camp is as planned on the lower Colville river. I left it about the time the sun went away and have since wandered as far west as Wainwright inlet, about 10 miles southwest of Point Barrow, and 300 from our winter camp, stopping at every Eskimo settlement, to see the habits and diseases of civilization are everywhere evident; unhealthy people crowded into unventilated and uncomfortable houses, a complete contrast to what it was 20 years ago here. I am told, and to what it still is to the eastward, where every house, no matter how crowded, is always warm and well ventilated.

"At Point Barrow and west of there 90 per cent. of the people have abandoned the warm, semi-excavated house with its door in the floor, the advantage of which are well known to you, for slimy overground structures imitating white men's houses. The walls of these are so thin that even were they airtight, as they often are (very nearly), enough cold comes in by conduction through the boards to form hoarfrost here and there and ice in the corners and under the beds. Instead of a door and a ventilating chimney always open, these houses have no ventilator, the door is hastily closed whenever opened and every crack is filled with a rag, tallow or chewing gum.

"A doctor who has been at Barrow seven years, since 1896—he has had reactions—tells me that the death rate from tuberculosis has more than doubled in ten years, the period of the change (under missionary and other influences) from the 'insanitary, filthy' native houses to the 'tidy, modern' dumpy cottages which are murdering the people.

"This has been a digression. It would take many pages of print to show up thoroughly the effects of civilization at Point Barrow and west of it.

"In three or four days I shall start east for the Colville and spend a month or two there at least. Many of the people there had never seen a white man when we arrived, but they have associated for many years with Eskimos who are Christians, etc., and their influence has been marked. They are, therefore, from my point of view sophisticated.

"In October last we divided our party in two sections. Dr. Anderson, with an Eskimo family, went into the mountains south of Barter Island, about 75 miles southeast from Flaxman Island and 125 from my camp. My party consisted of a man, wife, baby and one man besides. Dr. Anderson was to try to make a living on mountain sheep, river fish and ptarmigan. Our hope was deer, caribou, of which we got 15, not nearly enough, though more than any Eskimo hunter of the Colville country.

"An heretofore, the plan is to spend next winter a good way to the eastward, 500 or 600 miles as one travels east of the Mackenzie or 900 east of the Colville near the mouth of the Coppermine river or on Victoria land. Some Eskimos who saw some of these people last year tell me that in a party of 29 they saw one middle-aged man and one woman of about 18 who had hair as light as mine is and several whose hair was not black. Now you know a pure-blooded Eskimo is as black-haired and stiff-haired as any Japanese. With the disappearance of Franklin's two ships' companies in that neighborhood and with the lost Icelandic colonies of Greenland in mind the problem has its interesting features."

Michigan Has Strong Hands. Marquette, Mich.—A visitor to Marquette from Brimley, Chippewa county, A. W. Orr, is a man of marvellous strength. He can bend a 90-pound wire spine double and then do the same trick with a 120-pound spine.

Three-night baseball bats receive the same treatment at his hands and he bends a 3-inch iron bar with the side of his teeth.

A so-called juggler he twists every way and he tears a deck of cards with one rip. Orr is a cripple, having lost both legs in a railroad accident.

ARE CHINESE CADETS NOBLES

At Least One of Two Just Graduated from West Point Believed of Highest Rank.

Washington.—Graduates of the West Point military academy class of 1939 are speculating as to the social standing of Ting C. Chen and Ying Hsing Wen, two Chinese cadets that were graduated with them. Around the two popular young Chinese there has been a veil of mystery for four years, and to this day it has not been lifted.

There is a strong belief among the graduates that Chen is a Chinese of the very highest rank, and that Wen was his attendant. It is presumed that Wen was obliged to study as a student in order to be in a position to attend Chen, for the rules of the academy do not permit any cadet having an assistant or valet.

Both were always exceedingly gentlemanly and in the little affairs of life acted with such tact and diplomacy that the students readily believed they were Chinese of more than ordinary rank.

For a long time discussion as to which was of the nobler birth agitated their fellow students, but by a process of mental elimination it was finally agreed by the majority that Chen was. Neither young man would ever discuss his social standing or his affairs.

It was remarked that when Chen was handed his diploma Secretary of War Jacob M. Dickinson held his hand for a few minutes as he expressed the hope that Chen would help to maintain the friendly relations that have always existed between the United States and China.

The young men are now in Washington. It is reported that they are to go to London soon and thence to Germany for additional schooling in military affairs.

BOYS AND GIRLS SHOULD MIX.

Moary Harvard Professor Startles Faculty by Favoring Sparring Among Students.

Boston.—Prof. George Herbert Palmer of Harvard, now in his sixty-seventh year, twice married and reported to be contemplating a third venture, has declared himself as a champion of sparring. "A little flirting now and then is good for any one," he says. "Flirt by all means."

Professor Palmer, the oldest member of the Harvard faculty, whose second wife was Alice Freeman Palmer, president of Wellesley college from 1881 to 1887, much to the surprise of his associates is firmly of the opinion that the students of Harvard and Radcliffe devote too much time to study and might with profit use a little more time in the pleasant practice of flirting.

"If all could see the tired-out boys and girls that I see all would admit that flirting now and then would be a real vacation for them. I have three lectures a week at Radcliffe, and it is surprising how many young girls are letting the very best part of their lives go by without having the least bit of enjoyment.

"There are many boys here at Harvard who do not know what social life means. They study from the time they enter school until they graduate. Of course, there are some who do nothing but fool away their time; I do not mean to say that is what I uphold, for it is not.

"What I mean is to mix things up a bit—sprinkle a little flirting and a bit of love all right in the end."

SCHOOL RECORD IS PERFECT.

During Twelve Years Missouri Girl Was Never Tardy or Absent.

Kansas City, Mo.—Twelve years in school without being absent a single day or tardy once is the record of Pauline Roach, daughter of Con. B. Roach, secretary of state.

Miss Roach has just been graduated from the high school at Carthage, Mo. She attended the ward schools for eight years and her term in the high school was four years.

During the last campaign Pauline Roach was advertised as one of nine reasons why Mr. Roach should be elected secretary of state. The other eight reasons were her brothers and sisters. Since the election there are ten reasons.

Miss Roach is 18 years old.

House Lined with Money.

Sperry, Ia.—The mystery of the disappearance of the wealth of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Farrier of this city has been solved by the removal of the carpet, which disclosed the fact that the floor was fairly covered with bank notes.

Nearly \$1,000 was found. Other sums were revealed about the house in an old organ, in the walls and other out-of-the-way places. In fact, the house was fairly lined with cash and the administrators are still searching and finding money.

Was a Wife by Wire.

Winchester, Va.—After a romantic courtship, which was conducted over the telephone, Miss Frank E. Venable, a pretty belle-girl at the Washington exchange, and John E. Sellers, Virginia operator of Berryville, Chester county, were married last Wednesday night by the Rev. Julian Broadwater of the Baptist church. Miss Venable is the sixth girl to marry out of the exchange here in as many years. The couple will make their home in Berryville.

LOST HEIR IS FOUND

Strange Story of Boy Who Disappeared Years Ago.

Two Fortunes Await Identification of St. Louis Young Man Separated from Parents When a Baby; Had Strange Career.

St. Louis, Mo.—Charles Hayden Ellis, a young man in his twenties, who has been reared by Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Blackman of Wellston, St. Louis county, as their son, may be the son of Dr. Nicholson, a prominent and wealthy physician of Minneapolis, and heir to two fortunes. Young Ellis, who is an electrician, was taken by Mr. and Mrs. Blackman to raise when he was but five years old, and has since lived with them. Dr. Nicholson, who is en route home from Europe, is expected to arrive in St. Louis when he will try to prove that young Ellis is his son.

Herbert T. Park of Minneapolis, attorney for Dr. Nicholson, and who has been making a world-wide search for Dr. Nicholson's son, has found five young men, any of whom may turn out to be the missing son. Charles Hayden Ellis is one of the five. Two others live in St. Louis, one in St. Joseph and the other in Illinois. A chain of evidence now indicates that young Ellis is the right boy.

A story stranger than any fiction is the life story of Charles Hayden Ellis, if he is the missing son, and a stepson of Mr. and Mrs. Blackman, who live at Muskogee, Okla. Says that he is almost positive that Ellis is the Nicholson heir. The story told by the stepson of Blackman is that Dr. Nicholson and his wife, who lived in Minneapolis, separated in 1884, the wife coming to St. Louis with her infant son. Here she found herself unable to care for the child. She gave him to Charles Ellis, an architect, and Mrs. Ellis, and wrote Dr. Nicholson that the baby was dead.

After a time Ellis and his wife grew tired of the baby boy, placing him in the industrial home in St. Louis. An architect named Mann, a friend of Ellis, took the child from the home on an order from Edward A. Noonan, mayor of St. Louis, taking him to St. Joseph to return him to Ellis.

For some reason Mann brought the child back to St. Louis and gave him to a negro, Josie Bass. One spring day more than three years ago a detention officer brought to the office of Mrs. Harris, police matron in St. Louis, a blue-eyed, fair-haired, pretty boy about six years of age. The police had found the child in the home of the negro woman and had taken him from her. The little fellow's clothes were of fine material and bore the name Charles Hayden Ellis. Beyond that and the fact that the little boy lipiped of his papa who "drew pictures" of houses, from which the police matron judged that the child's father must have been an architect, nothing was learned of the little fellow's past. The negroes said the child's parents were dead.

WIFE FINALLY FINDS HUSBAND

Spouse Refuses to Return to Once Happy Home and Is Placed in Prison.

Laporte, Ind.—An exciting chase for a husband, covering two continents and lasting more than nine years, culminated in Laporte when Alexander Kurlay, who has been working on a farm near here, was lodged in jail on complaint of his wife, who charges abandonment. Kurlay became a bedfellow in 1900. A wedding trip to Europe was suggested by him and the young bride gladly accepted. The couple toured the old continent and all was as serene as a schoolboy in vacation time until Austria was reached. In the domain of Emperor Franz Josef the bridegroom began to tire of comatual fidelity. Soon after their arrival at Vienna Mrs. Kurlay discovered she was minus a husband.

She searched the Austrian city for her missing spouse without result. Then she began to scour the world to locate her alleged faithless helpmeet. She traveled over Europe and America in her quest, but not until she reached Laporte did she lay eyes on the object of her search.

"Will you not come back to your happy home?" she asked. "Yes, I will not," was the reply. "Then you will go to jail," she asserted. An officer was called and the wife made good her threat.

Imports at Seattle Increase. Seattle, Wash.—The port warden's report for June shows that domestic imports from coastwise, Alaska and local ports were \$2,725,445; exports to domestic ports \$4,899,497, and imports from foreign ports \$2,608,545, of which \$2,117,706 was raw silk from the Orient. Total exports to foreign ports were \$622,543, the Oriental trade showing decreased exports and increased imports.

To Improve Alaskan Wireline. Seattle, Wash.—Increased power for United States army wireless stations now working in Alaska and the inspection of sites for the erection of additional stations has been ordered by the war department. Power at the stations at Nome, Fort Gibbon, Fort Herbert, Circle City and Fairbanks will be increased. A station will be constructed at the mouth of the Yukon.

NEW TREE ON HIGH TOWER.

Tiny Maple May Thrive Like Mate, Which Attains Large Size, to Wonder of Scientists.

Greensburg, Ind.—Another tree has made its appearance on the court house tower in this city and bids fair to receive as much publicity as its mate, which has caused Greensburg to be mentioned in almost every corner of the civilized world.

The tiny tree is believed to be a maple, the same as the larger one that reposes near the pinnacle of the tower, and which is now a sturdy tree ten or twelve feet in height.

The second tree was first noticed a few days ago, and had sprung from a crevice just above the cornice on the south side of the tower. It is in plain view from two sides of the square, and seen through a glass appears to be at least six or eight inches high.

There are many versions as to how the first tree ever started to grow on the rock surface of the tower, and the opinions are varied.

A plausible one seems that many years ago some sweet-voiced songster, in hurried flight over this charming little city, dropped from its beak a winged seed which lodged in a crevice. There, warmed by the sun, nourished by the showers and cradled by the wind, the little seed put forth tiny roots and frail shoots.

Growing courageous it added branches and leaves until it had developed into a sturdy little maple. Twenty years ago there were seven trees on the tower, but from various causes all died excepting the one that stands proudly on the top of the tower.

Two of the seven had to be cut away owing to the roots spreading the stone work in such a manner that the tower was greatly damaged. Others died, probably from lack of nourishment, but the lone tree still thrives through the summer's heat and the cold blasts of winter.

The tiny tree that has made its appearance on the south side bids fair to live for many years if it can withstand the elements, for its position is such that it will be a long time before it will have reached such a size as to damage to any great extent the roof of the tower.

PEAT FUEL OF THE FUTURE.

Big Deposits in Central States Await Utilization as Source of Heat and Power.

Washington.—A number of cities and towns in the United States may obtain their light, heat and power direct from peat bogs in the near future. The statement is made by federal experts that billions of dollars' worth of fuel lies undeveloped in the swamps and bogs of the country, awaiting only the genius and business ability of the American before it drives the wheel of progress. Its value, on the basis of \$3 a ton, roughly guessed at by experts of the geological survey, who have been studying the peat deposits for some time, is more than \$25,000,000,000, more money than is represented in all the property, stock, implements, and buildings owned by the farmers of the United States.

The greatest amount of peat is in the eastern Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, northern Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York; the New England states, New Jersey, portions of Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

A thorough investigation of the peat resources is now being undertaken by the geological survey, not only as to the amount of peat and its location, but also its use. Prof. Charles A. Davis of the technological branch has general charge of the investigations, while Prof. Robert H. Fernald, consulting engineer in charge of gas producer tests, is endeavoring to find the value of peat as a fuel for heating and power purposes. The latter has recently returned from a trip to Europe, where he investigated the use of peat, and found the other countries much further advanced along this line than the United States. Prof. Fernald returns with the belief that peat will soon be extensively used in the United States.

"I believe the day is coming soon when cities located near the peat bogs and away from the coal fields will obtain their power and light from peat. I understand that Florida is to have a power plant soon that will use peat as a fuel, and will transmit the electricity to Jacksonville."

Odd Will Conveys \$100,000.

San Francisco.—Although disposing of an estate valued at \$200,000, the will of Mrs. Matilda Wolfe, wife of William Wolfe, a well-known wholesale liquor dealer of this city, was written on the last page of a memorandum book. Mrs. Wolfe died May 15, but the will, which was written in lead pencil, was not found until a few days ago.

Japs Strengthen Mukden.

St. Petersburg.—Reports from Harbin state that the Japanese are strongly re-enforcing the garrison at Mukden, which now consists of 22,000 men, including 15 squadrons of cavalry. Trains of ammunition and provisions are constantly arriving and the Japanese are actively repairing and extending the fortifications.

Sails to Receive \$1,000,000.

New York.—Mrs. Henry Burdett of West Hoboken, N. J., is on the way to Germany to claim one-tenth of the \$10,000,000 estate left by Bishop J. Franke of Breslau, her uncle. She carries the power of attorney for her brother, who also receives one-tenth.

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