

MEKRAN, LAND OF MYSTERY

Is Desiccated by Nature and Shunned By Man—Few Tribes Linger There.

Mekran, mysterious Mekran, is the land stretching almost from the Indian to the entrance to the Persian gulf. The greater part of Mekran is desolate and forsaken, a land desiccated by nature and shunned by man. The few tribes which linger there are the jetsam of history, stray wreckage which has drifted into this obscure corner of the world in the backwash of great events.

THERE WAS ONE TOO MANY

Farmer Suspicious of Literary Man's Methods of Rearing Children.

The following is told at the expense of a New York literary man, into whose family a fifth child came last summer. The family were at their country house in the north of the state, and for a time much of the care of the other four children devolved upon the father, who entertains some Spartan notions touching the rearing of his sons.

FEW YOUNG FRENCH STARS

If Leading Actresses Are Not All Grandmothers, They Might Easily Be.

The impresario, Schurmann of Paris, who has toured most of the "stars," has written a most entertaining book of memoirs under the title of "Secrets de Comedienne."

HE COPYRIGHTED A FACADE

French Architect Sued the Imitators and the Case Was Decided Against His Heirs.

The strangest copyright question ever debated came before a Paris court, when it was asked to decide the controverted copyright of a house. An architect at Boulogne-sur-Seine had built several apartment houses on a piece of ground belonging to him and had devised an original facade of colored bricks.

HONESTY IS THE NEW WAY

Tricks That Used to Obtain in Reputable Business Firms Now Obsolete.

"The new idea in business is honesty, openness, frankness," said Alton B. Parker at a dinner at Exopus. "We used to conceal our plumbing, and very poor, unsanitary work it was. We expose it now, and it is altogether sound and wholesome and satisfactory. Well, business is like that."

BUILDING 100 STORIES HIGH

Nothing Improbable in Report of Plans for New Structure for City of New York.

There is nothing intrinsically improbable in the report that a hundred story building has been planned for New York. A 50-story building is already in process of construction there, and presumably there are no serious engineering problems involved in the higher structure that have not been encountered in the lower.

French Ambassador's Conscience.

Now and again our chancellor of the exchequer receives anonymous sums from those who at some time have accidentally or by design defrauded the treasury, says the London Globe. Recently the French minister of finance received 2 fr. 10c. This modest return evidently set some one thinking for a few days later came the restitution of 1,813 pounds.

Action of Frost on Plants.

A Swedish botanist has propounded a new theory to explain the killing action of frost on plants, as well as the fact that certain plants escape damage when others are destroyed. He observed that such plants as cerastium and viola, which survive the severe winters of Sweden, have the starch in their leaves replaced during the cold season by sugar.

Evolution of a Fair Maid.

"At Twelve—I shan't do everything you command; you're only my maid! At Fifteen—I will show you I have a little independence of my own! Besides, you're only my stepfather!"

The Resorts of Millionaires.

They were on the subway. The middle-aged man was sober, but his young companion had confided to him in particular, and the whole car in general, that the champagne had tasted unusually fine that evening.

PEACOCKS MUST GO

People Living Near Margate Park Unable to Sleep.

Vigorous Protest Made Against Hideous Night Noises of Vainglorious Birds, Which Foll Efforts to Catch Them.

London.—Do you know how to catch peacocks? If you do Margate's park officials will be glad to hear from you. For they, the head gardener, the chief park keeper and the various assistants of Dane park, have been ordered by the town council to catch peacocks.

IS TOO TICKLISH FOR ARMY

Ohio Farmer Almost Went Into Military When Being Measured—Sent Back to Calm Nerves.

Columbus, O.—He was "too ticklish" and therefore could not join the army. Such was the plight of Christian Johnson, a young farmer of twenty-two years, who came to Columbus and went to the recruiting station to be enlisted as a soldier.

DIDN'T AGREE WITH HER

Woman Gets Worse as Soon as Husband's Beef Tea Concoction Is Administered.

One day a doctor was summoned to a farmhouse, where he found a woman in a high fever and evidently exceedingly ill. He said to her husband, who was the only other person in the house: "Your wife is very ill and must have nothing to eat except milk and beef-tea, but I want you to give her a cup of one of the other every two hours."

CHINESE SAILOR IS BEST

Is Adaptable From Fireroom to Galley, Is Industrious and Obedient to Ship.

There is a growing disposition on the part of ship owners and officers in various parts of the world to send to China for complete crews. For most ships, particularly when first employing such crews, it is necessary to carry about a third more Chinese for the same service.

Gave Him the Worst of It

Since Ford is greatly in demand at dinners in New York for his ability as an entertainer. He is in a class with Augustus Thomas and Pat Murphy for readiness of speech, and in a class by himself for an individuality in humor.

Dead Buildings Into Tombstones

"I was much surprised," said a New Yorker recently, "to learn that the granite fronts of old buildings that are being torn down are used for tombstones. I was watching some workers at work on an old business building, and, being curious, asked the foreman what was to become of the row of big columns that was holding up the front of the building."

New Section of the Brain

Henry Miller, the actor-manager, is always in earnest when he is rehearsing a play, and he frequently makes remarks that sink deep into sensitive souls of the people in the cast with him.

Dying by Oregan

It has been discovered that if a human being dies after an ordinary illness and not a violent death he does not die all over and all at once. He may have a diseased liver, heart or lung, and this may be the cause of death; but it has been found that if the diseased organ could be removed and replaced by a healthy one life might have been maintained indefinitely.

VETERINARY SCHOOL IS OLD

To Celebrate 150th Anniversary in Lyons, France, in May 1912.

The one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the erection in Lyons, France, of a veterinary school will be celebrated in that city about the middle of May, 1912. Preparations are now forming to commemorate the event in a fitting manner, and invitations are being issued to all veterinary schools in the United States and elsewhere for the purpose of having delegates in as large a number as possible.

It is authentically recorded in the annals of veterinary science that the world's first veterinary school was founded in Lyons in 1761, since which time similar institutions have been inaugurated in many countries, the last being reported from Abyssinia.

Power From Tides and Winds

At the recent meeting of the British association the question of economical production of power from tides and winds was again under discussion, and it has been taken up widely by scientific journals in Europe. La Revue Scientifique calls attention to a system of utilizing the power of sea waves to actuate a dynamo which has been employed during the last six months at the mouth of the River Gironde.

Masked Explorers

The natural conclusion upon meeting a masked man in an unfrequented location is that we are in for an encounter with a highwayman, but this is not necessarily the case, for the person might be a scientist engaged in exploration work. Mountain climbers and there are many of these at present, some making their excursions into the clouds for pure pleasure, have found that some such protection is required to ward off the pain and inconvenience of snow cold. Along the Pacific slope there are several organizations of amateur mountain climbers, and the advantages of some protection for the skin of the face was first appreciated by them.

The Sitting Room

An ideal sitting room may have a wall paper entirely cream, with clusters of blue and white china arranged on the chimney shelf and in one or two other parts of the room. If the ceiling be low it may have a fringed shell in white or dark oak, whichever color is selected for the room, with the collection of blue and white china displayed thereon. A blue and white Chinese carpet should cover the floor, while the windows are veiled with short fringed madras muslin curtains.

A Hint of Economy

"I wish you would quit talking about how well Gladys Ann paints and plays the piano," said Mrs. Cumrox. "Why, I was kind of proud of her accomplishments," replied her husband. "I know that. But the first thing you know people will think we are depending on homemade art."

Using Time

It is always easier to wish that we had more time than to use the time that we have. So, by wasting time in wishing, we still further reduce the precious asset of the actual and only time that is really ours. The person who is not capitalizing all the time he has at the rate of sixty seconds to the minute would not be much better off with forty-eight hours in his day. Those who turn out what is, to the rest of us, a discouragingly large amount of work, have simply learned the art of using all their time—particularly the books and corners, the odds and ends, of their time. They utilize a five or ten-minute scrap of time as eagerly as they do a half-day. And so things get done, and their year's output seems stupendous. With the average man, unless he can see several hours clear for a piece of work, he will attempt little out of the ordinary; and that is why he remains an average man.—Sunday School Times.

The Scottish Thistle

The origin of the thistle as the national badge of Scotland is thus given by tradition: When the Danes invaded Scotland it was deemed unwarlike to attack the enemy by night, instead of in pitched battle by day; but on one occasion the invaders tried a night attack. In order to prevent their tramp being heard they marched barefooted, and they had succeeded in creeping close up to the Scottish forces unobserved, when one of them stepped on a thistle and uttered a cry of pain. The alarm was given, and the attack was beaten off. Out of gratitude the thistle was adopted as the insignia of Scotland.

Composition of Austrian Parliament

According to information supplied by the deputies themselves, the new Austrian parliament is composed of 120 landed proprietors, 50 advocates, and the same number of authors and journalists, 41 public officials, 40 professors, 36 persons in private employment, 22 business men, 21 judges, 14 manufacturers, 11 burgomasters, 16 teachers, 9 doctors, 9 diet members and 9 former cabinet ministers and privy councillors, 8 engineers, 7 merchants, 5 political officials, 3 private persons, 2 clergymen and an active cabinet minister, an artist, a town councillor, an officer and a working man.

Rural Joy

"How did you spend your two-week vacation?" "Recovering from suburban the first week and poison ivy the second."

LEARNED TO EAT LEATHER

How Morgan's Pirates Managed to Swallow and Digest It to Avoid Starvation.

The infamous Captain Morgan and his piratical crew were sometimes in tight places at Panama, and on one occasion were reduced to eating their leather bags. "Some persons," says one of the company, Esquemelin (whose narrative is reproduced in "The Buccaneers in the West Indies"), "who never were out of their mothers' kitchens may ask how these pirates could eat, swallow and digest these pieces of leather, so hard and dry. Unto whom I only answer: That could they once experiment with hunger, or, rather, famine is, they would certainly find the manner, by their own necessity, as the pirates did. For these first took the leather and sliced it in pieces. Then did they beat it between two stones and rub it, often dipping it in the water of the river, to render it by these means supple and tender. Lastly, they scraped off the hair, and roasted or broiled it upon the fire. And being thus cooked they cut it into small morsels and ate it, helping it down with frequent gulps of water, which by good fortune they had right at hand."

Gratefully Received

A charitable man in Birkenhead once sent a bundle of cast-off clothing to a philanthropic society. He received from one of the recipients of garments given away by the society, the following note:

"The community man give me, amongst other things, what he called a pair of inexpressibles. I found your name and where you lived in one of the pockets. My wife laughed so when I showed 'em to her that I thought she would have a fit. She wants to know if there lives and breathes a man who has legs no bigger than that. She said if there was, he or she be taken up for vagrancy for having no visible means of support. I couldn't get 'em on my eldest boy, so I used 'em for my gun-cases. If you have another pair to spare, my wife would like to get 'em to hang up by the side of the fireplace to keep the tongs in."—London Telegraph.

Retort Courteous

At a dinner party the other day a prig inquired of his neighbor, a plain woman who talked a lot, "Tell me why isn't a woman like a looking-glass?" She gave it up, of course, and then he told her with a smirk—"Because a looking-glass reflects without speaking, but a woman speaks without reflecting."

He Confessed his Inability

"Well, you see," she answered, and everyone was listening now, "well, you see, a mirror is polished. I don't think some men's manners always are, do you?"

Easily Learned

"Did you learn any French while you were in Paris?" asked Biddad, meeting Suthers shortly after his return from Europe. "Oh, a little," said Suthers. "Not so very much, though. I got so I could say cigarette in French."

The Order

"I have called, sir, to see the photo of the lady with \$25,000 who wants a husband." "Can you keep your face straight?" "Of course I can." "Very well. We'll break you in first with the \$5,000 applicants, and then gradually, as you grow stronger, we will work you up to the big price. This way, please, and don't get frightened."